

NEWS ROUNDUP

Forces ambulance crews stand down

Nearly 130 military ambulances which have provided the backbone of emergency cover throughout the worst of the ambulance dispute were yesterday recalled to barracks (Kevin Eason writes).

As ambulance crews filtered back to normal working for the first time after six months of dispute, Army and Royal Air Force crews who had to cope with their workload were gathering up their equipment.

More than 1,200 army medics answered more than 127,000 emergency calls during a total of a million hours on call, costing the Department of Health £5 million. At the height of the dispute 209 military ambulances were operating in 21 health districts.

Yesterday marked the full return to work of all 22,500 ambulance crews who have now accepted the Government's pay deal, worth 17.6 per cent on average.

Many returned to work on Tuesday after a vote in favour of the offer.

Greens 'unrealistic'

The Prime Minister yesterday deprecated "airy-fairy" environmentalists for lack of realism (Robin Young writes). She quoted the poet Andrew Marvell's lines about a garden which "annihilates all that's made into a green thought, a green shade", and said it reminded her of Greens: "Very beautiful, but quite unrealistic." She quoted Kipling too: "Our England is a garden, and such gardens are not made, By saying: 'Oh, how beautiful!' and sitting in the shade."

Marine discharged

A Royal Marine who walked free from court after being convicted of killing his wife and baby is to be discharged from the service, it was announced yesterday. Graham Sherman, aged 21, was found guilty last month of culpable homicide — the equivalent of manslaughter — after he shot dead his wife Michelle, aged 23, and their baby son, Josh, at the family home at Arbroath, Tayside. The judge Lord Dunpark said Sherman had been punished enough.

Exile murder inquiry

Bulgaria may send prosecutors to Britain in connection with the killing in 1978 of a Bulgarian exile who was stabbed with a poisoned umbrella in London, the Foreign Office said yesterday. Britain suspects that the murder of Georgi Markov, who worked for the BBC's Bulgarian Service, was the work of agents of Bulgaria's then hard-line communist government. Britain has raised the issue again since the fall of Bulgaria's government last year.

IRA extortion threat

An apparent attempt by the IRA to extort £2 million from Ireland's second largest bank by threatening to blow up bank property was made almost two weeks ago, it emerged yesterday (Edward Gorman writes). The threat came to light on Thursday after the Bank of Ireland informed its 7,500 staff. It is understood the demand was made 13 days ago by four men to an employee based in Ulster. The bank has said it will not bow to extortion and has increased security.

Seabed dispute settled

The Court of Session in Edinburgh has confirmed that the seabed around Shetland is part of the Crown Estate. The Shetland Salmon Farmers Association and Lerwick Harbour Trustees had joined with the Crown Estate in the presentation of a special case to resolve the dispute over ownership, which centered on marine fish farming and harbour works. The court ruling has confirmed the Crown Estate's rights of ownership over the seabed out to 12 miles.

Newspaper of the year award goes to Russia

A Russian weekly newspaper which sells 33 million copies was yesterday named newspaper of the year.

Argumenty i Fakty was given the title by *What The Papers Say*, television's longest-running current affairs programme, which moved from Channel 4 to BBC2 last night.

The paper began 10 years ago as a digest of the Soviet and foreign press aimed mainly at university and col-

lege lecturers. Its circulation was 10,000. Gradually it evolved into a newspaper and since glasnost has gathered 33.3 million subscribers.

At the award ceremony in the Savoy Hotel, London, Mr Andrew Whitman-Smith of *The Independent* was named editor of the year.

Mr Paul Foot, of the *Daily Mirror*, was journalist of the year and Mr Peter Miller, of *The Sunday Times*, Foreign Correspondent of the Year.

Chief constables criticize new budget controls

By Stewart Tendler
Crime Correspondent

Britain's chief constables are considering lobbying the Government to change new capital spending controls which they fear could cut spending on equipment and police building works.

The possibility of a dispute with the chief constables comes at a time when Home Office and Treasury, keen to place some control on the annually escalating multi-billion-pound police budget, are already at odds with the Police Federation over housing allowances and face a Commons debate on the issue.

The capital funding issue centres on controls for the 42 provincial forces in England and Wales which means they must share in the next

financial year a budget of £90 million for building works and £85 million for vehicles, plant or equipment.

One chief constable has said publicly that the money allocated would barely buy new bicycles let alone replace vehicles that had run up 250,000 miles. In some forces, much of the new money may go on paying bills, and some officers say the budgets, announced 10 days ago, were late and arbitrary.

The chief constables' complaints centre on a change in the method of allocating funds for capital expenditure to which the Home Office contributes 51 per cent. Hitherto, the police and local authorities submitted plans which were then agreed with the Home Office. Under the new system the Home Office

controls the budget, setting out what forces can spend and telling them that if they want to spend more then it must come from their own resources such as reserves from property sales. The Home Office will not contribute 51 per cent for anything over the budget figure.

The chief constables say they may have to resort to reserves because of the parlous state of capital investment and the awards have worked out at about a third of each force's requirements.

A police report last week revealed that 82 per cent of the police budget was spent on personnel, leaving insufficient for buildings or equipment. If forces dig into reserves their police authorities will eventually have to look for other means of

finance which could mean an ingredient in the next poll tax. The result would be that police funds would become a political issue.

The executive committee of the Association of Chief Police Officers met this week to discuss the situation and forces have been asked urgently to present evidence of the effects of the new budget system.

The Home Office said forces might have complaints. If forces were desperate for new spending they could use their own resources.

The Home Office's potential difficulties with the chief constables are emerging as the federation plans a campaign including a possible judicial review, national newspaper advertisements and the canvassing of MPs for support. The housing

allowance changes, which have to be ratified by Parliament, are to be challenged by MPs from both sides of the House.

The federation leadership fears that the package of pay and conditions drawn up in 1978 and accepted for the past decade could now be under threat in spite of the pledges by successive Home Secretaries that it was safe.

The federation's attitude was hardened further with a recent Home Office decision that officers in half the forces in England and Wales will not receive a rent allowance review due on April 1 although other forces received their review last year. The Home Office has now conceded that it can get a rise based on the retail price index.

Kinnock says Tory defeat will serve as notice to quit

By Craig Seton

Mr Neil Kinnock made a whistle-stop tour of Mid-Shropshire yesterday and, scenting victory in the air, declared that a Conservative defeat in Thursday's poll would give Mrs Thatcher "notice to quit".

The Labour leader arrived as a new local Gallup poll showed Labour ahead of the Conservatives by 19.5 per cent and on course to overturn the Tory majority of 14,654.

During a walk-about in Lichfield, the Labour leader said: "We are going to win and we are going to keep on working for every vote because we want to earn the support we get."

He said victory would be notice to the Government to get out of the way and allow Britain to be ruled by a party which respected democracy.

Poll tax, he said, was not the only issue.

Speaking on the steps of Dr Johnson's birthplace, he said: "The attitudes being expressed and the reasons for people moving their votes go much wider than the poll tax."

What they see is not an accident of Thatcherism; it is actually the essence of Thatcherism and all the things which have gone wrong and are going wrong."

Mr Kinnock was campaigning in support of Mrs Sylvia Heal, who was challenged by Mr Tom King, the Secretary of State for Defence, to explain why she had voted at Labour's annual conference against the leadership's defence policy and for £5 billion cuts in the defence budget.

Mr Charles Prior, the Tory candidate, insisted he would win in spite of the polls and produced a letter of support from the Prime Minister, which, however, acknowledged he would face many questions about the community charge.

Mr Kinnock had started his visit at Charley Hall, the



1987 General election: J Heddle (C), 28,644; C St Hill (Lab), 13,990; T Jones (Lib), 13,114; J Bazeley (Independent), 836; C maj: 14,654.

country house home in the north of the constituency of Mr David Unwin, owner of transport and plant hire companies, and his wife, Ros.

Labour officials said that the couple were supporters who were loaning Mr Kinnock their helicopter to tour the constituency before taking him to Lichfield.

At a Conservative Party press conference, the Secretary of State for Defence said that the £5 billion cuts that Mrs Heal had supported would almost certainly put 1,500 people who worked in defence-related industries in the constituency on the dole.

Mr King challenged Mrs Heal to say whether she was in favour of Britain having no nuclear defence while the Soviet Union maintained a nuclear capability targeted on the country.

Last night Mr Kenneth Baker, the Conservative Party chairman, attacked the Labour Party for having nothing of substance to say during the by-election campaign. "Labour has a new theme tune for the Mid-Staffs by-election — 'The Sound of Silence'," he said. Mr Kinnock had talked a lot during yesterday's visit "but said nothing".

The Liberal Democrat candidate, Mr Tim Jones, was given a boost by a council by-election result in the Western Springs ward of Rugeley, where there is strong Labour support. In Wednesday's night poll, his party narrowly retained the seat over Labour.

There are 14 candidates in Thursday's poll.

Spy claims 'wild speculation'

By Jamie Dettmer

Claims by Conservative MPs that Mr Farzad Bazoft, the journalist executed in Iraq on Thursday, may have been spying for Israel, were "wild speculation", senior staff at *The Observer* said yesterday.

They reacted angrily to suggestions by Mr Rupert Allason, Conservative MP for Torbay, that it was "highly likely" that Mr Bazoft, who was born in Iran, was working for Israel's intelligence agency, Mossad. "This is ridiculous and absolutely incredible," one of Mr Bazoft's *Observer* colleagues said.

Mr Donald Treford, editor of *The Observer*, said: "If Mr Allason has a single scrap of evidence that Farzad spied for anyone, let him produce it. If not, he should keep his fevered speculation for his books."

Farzad was a reporter who died a horrible death without a fair trial or appeal. Any attempt to justify his execution or deflect the world's attention from this brutal fact is beneath contempt."

One *Observer* executive said: "How many times do we have to say that Farzad was not a spy?"

However, in spite of their conviction that Mr Bazoft never worked for either British or Israeli intelligence, *Observer* journalists were clearly stunned by the disclosure yesterday that Mr Bazoft received an 18-month prison sentence in 1981 for robbing a building society in Brackley, Northamptonshire.

According to Mr Allason, an expert on international espionage, it was probably this conviction that led Mr Bazoft to Mossad.

Mr Allason, who writes books on intelligence under the name Nigel West, said: "I think that Bazoft knew that the moment his criminal conviction became known to *The Observer* he would have been out on his ear. He probably capitalised on the time he was there and his background by offering himself to the Israelis."

"We know now that he offered himself four times to the British police in recent months as an informer. It would be highly likely he would offer himself to the Israelis."

Mr Anthony Beaumont-Dark, Conservative MP for Birmingham Selly Oak, supported the speculation of his Conservative colleague.



Mr Harold Walker, the British Ambassador to Baghdad, who was ordered to return home at Heathrow Airport yesterday. He went on for an extensive Foreign Office briefing.

"There now arises an incredible story of mystery and enigma surrounding the background of this fellow," he said. "If it is true he gave information to Special Branch, did he give information, as well, to MI6? Perhaps the biggest story of all is yet to be told."

Yesterday, the Foreign Office declined to comment in detail on the claims by the two MPs. A spokesman did say, however, that Mr Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary, made it clear in the Commons on Thursday that Mr Bazoft had no links with British intelligence.

"All he did was to offer information to the Metropolitan Police about terrorists in Britain," a Whitehall source said. "He was clearly hoping that the police would help to stand up stories he was working on."

Conservative MPs also began to question yesterday exactly when Mr Treford knew about Mr Bazoft's criminal background. On Thursday, Mr Treford said he knew about the 1981 building society robbery only when it was revealed in press reports.

However, Mrs Penny Brain, who runs a guest house in Banbury, Oxfordshire, and who was owed money by Mr Bazoft, said yesterday that she wrote to Mr Treford last Sunday informing him about the robbery.

"Mr Treford contacted me this week asking me not to reveal what had happened because his life was hanging by a thread," she said. "I agreed with what he was saying."

She said that her husband, Paul, had unwittingly taken Mr Bazoft to the Heart of England building society at Brackley, two days before the robbery in June 1981.

Mr Bazoft owed £260 rent but had told Mrs Brain that he was having difficulty getting money out of Iran. He told her that he could get it through the building society.

Mr Bazoft returned to the building society 48 hours later claiming to have a bomb and got away with £475 pounds. The "bomb" was later found to be a fake.

Mrs Brain said that police confiscated the money Mr Bazoft gave her but it was returned to her nine months

later. "He was very plausible and could talk you into anything," she said of Mr Bazoft. "But I liked him."

Mr Bazoft was released after serving a year of his sentence. In spite of his trial judge recommending his immediate deportation on release from prison, the Home Office decided to allow him to remain in Britain because he claimed his life would be in danger if he returned to Iran.

Details of Mr Bazoft's criminal background will almost certainly have been on the Foreign Office and Home Office records as a matter of course ever since the unsuccessful application was made for his deportation in 1981. Whitehall sources indicated yesterday.

It was also disclosed yesterday that Mr Bazoft sent a final personal message of apology to Mrs Daphne Parish. The brief oral message was delivered by a senior British diplomat to Mrs Parish in prison near Baghdad.

Officials at the embassy in Baghdad were still attempting to retrieve Mr Bazoft's body from the Iraqi authorities.

Pre-Budget advice to Major

Fowler leads MPs in appeal for help to families

By Nigel Williamson, Political Staff

Mr John Major, the Chancellor of the Exchequer who will spend this weekend finishing his first budget, came under increasing pressure yesterday to "do something" to assist families and working mothers.

MPs from both sides of the House urged him to abolish tax on workplace nurseries. Sir Norman Fowler, who resigned two months ago as Secretary of State for Employment in order to spend more time with his family, was the most senior Tory to speak out.

He said that it was an "anomaly" that free car parking in central London can be provided by employers tax-free but workplace nurseries are taxed as a fringe benefit.

It was a "curious policy", Sir Norman said. "I do think we have got ourselves into a right muddle as far as this is concerned. I do hope the Chancellor will seek and use

the opportunity of his first Budget to put this right."

"What we should aim to do is to make it easier for women both to raise families and to pursue a career if that is what the woman herself wants."

However, for the Government, Mr John Patten, the Home Office minister, refused to be drawn. A government working party would report on child care facilities this summer, he said, fuelling speculation that any tax changes would also await the outcome of the report.

At the same time, Mr Frank Field, the Labour chairman of the Commons select committee on social services, and the Family Policy Studies Centre issued figures showing that the major gainers from tax changes under the present Government had been single people and childless couples. They issued figures showing that while the real value of tax-

free income for a single person had risen by 25 per cent, for a married couple with two children under 11 it had risen by only 18 per cent.

Mr Field said: "Despite all the government rhetoric about protecting the family it has been those without children who have won in the tax

stakes". Sir Norman repeats his plea to the Chancellor to abolish tax on work place nurseries in an article in today's edition of *The Times*.

In it he also calls for Mr Major to make it easier for employers to provide child-care vouchers.

He writes: "The case for making such vouchers tax exempt is also strong."

It would share the cost between employers and government, but above all it would provide flexibility, leaving the choice to the mother, for vouchers can be used to pay for child-minding as well as nurseries."

Sir Norman also added his voice yesterday to a traditional Tory "wet" topic by calling for the retention of universal child benefit.

Many fear that if the Conservatives win the next election they could move to scrap child benefit completely.

Sir Norman, who was Secretary of State for Social Services from 1981 to 1987, appeared to criticize the Government's refusal after he left the job to raise the benefit in line with inflation, when he said that he was against allowing the benefit to "with away".

Sir Norman said: "It never was intended that family credit should take the place of child benefit."

"It would be a serious error to abandon child benefit because I believe it brings help to countless families in this country. It is a very popular benefit and it is also a very effective benefit."

Another former minister, Mrs Edwina Currie, said she was not convinced increasing child benefit was the best way, help should be aimed at the poorest families.

Taxing choice, page 10
Parliament, page 4

Ministers resist EC horse trade

By Sheila Gunn
Political Reporter

Agriculture ministers are preparing for a long tough fight in Brussels against the threat of a revival of the export of live horses from Britain to the continent for slaughter.

The EC intends to introduce a community-wide policy on the export of live animals after 1992.

Yesterday, it emerged that Mr David Maclean and Mr David Curry, parliamentary secretaries for the department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, were hoping to enlist bureaucracy in an attempt to choke any such trade.

One scheme under consideration is to impose so many regulations governing statutory rest periods, the type of transport, the space required, feeding, watering and quarantine that it would deter exporters. A similar scheme protects wild birds.

About £4.5 million of slaughtered British horses, the equivalent of 14,000 horses and ponies, is exported annually to the main markets of France, Holland, Italy and Belgium to satisfy a demand for horsemeat.

Most at risk would be Britain's unique native ponies, living wild or semi-wild on the Welsh hills, Dartmoor, Exmoor, New Forest and similar stretches of moorland.

Mr Brian Cox, for the defence, said Mrs Taylor and the family had always discouraged him from thoughts of suicide. "What she did was solely for her husband."

Mrs Cooper and Mr Taylor's parents all denied the same charge and were found not guilty by the judge.

Probation for wife who helped husband to die

A woman was put on probation for a year by Leeds Crown Court yesterday after pleading guilty to aiding and abetting her husband's suicide.

Mrs Karen Taylor, 36, gave her husband Mr David Taylor, who was suffering from multiple sclerosis, a combination of 70 painkillers and tranquilizers.

Mrs Taylor's father, Mr Dennis Cooper, 63, who also admitted the charge, was given a similar sentence.

Mr Justice French told Mrs Taylor: "No one can listen to the tragic history of Mr Taylor's last years and last days without the deepest sympathy both for him and for his family. No one can

hear, as I have heard, the fearful promise which he exacted from you without appreciating the appalling dilemma in which he placed you."

"You had either to break the law and assist the death of the man you loved or you had to break a solemn promise given to that same man."

"The course which you chose was that which you believed to be the kindest for him and equally the course which you knew to be the harshest for yourself."

The judge said that it should not be thought that any court could condone such offences.

"The court will look with care as to the steps which are necessary in the public interest to be taken in each individual case. But having considered

this case with the greatest care the conclusion I come to is that it would not be in the public interest to sentence you to any formal sentence of punishment."

Mr Anton Lodge, QC, for the prosecution, told the court that Mr Taylor died shortly before midday on Sunday, July 2, last year from bronchial pneumonia, which had been "undoubtedly hastened if not caused" by multiple sclerosis, which he had suffered from since 1980.

The disease had been diagnosed the following year — the year Mr and Mrs Taylor had planned to start a family.

Mr Taylor, a Yorkshire Water Authority civil engineer who had a first-class degree in engineering, had been a very fit, sporting and active

man with a happy marriage. Mr Lodge said: "Mr Taylor was aware of his condition and the burden he felt he was putting on others. He was subject to bouts of depression and spoke often of suicide."

"According to Mrs Taylor he asked her when multiple sclerosis was first diagnosed to promise to help him to end his life if his quality of life got to where he did not like it. She agreed and hoped it would never happen."

Mrs Taylor and the family had always discouraged him from thoughts of suicide. "What she did was solely for her husband."

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Mother
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Clapham

SALE ROOM

Ferrari is
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Mother fights move to place 'white' girl with black family

By Ray Clancy

The white mother of a three-year-old girl in council care is to fight plans that could lead to her child being placed with a black family for adoption, it was disclosed yesterday.

The child, who looks white and has been with white foster parents for over a year, is placed by Liverpool City Council as being of mixed race because her great-grandfather was black, a town hall spokesman confirmed.

The council is anxious to place children of mixed-race backgrounds with similar families and is reviewing the case.

However, the solicitor acting for the mother believes the council is out of order and he is ready to seek a judicial review in the High Court to prevent the child being adopted by a black family.

"Last week the mother was told that the council is seriously considering taking the child away from the white foster parents with a view to placing her with a black family for adoption," Mr Philip Carter, a member of the solicitors' child care panel, said.

"We would rather not take legal proceedings but will consider going to the High Court if necessary."

The mother, aged 28, who has three other children, has kept in contact with her daughter through phone calls and photographs from the foster parents. She wants her daughter to stay with the white foster family and had thought that they would eventually be allowed to adopt her. The girl's father is also white.

"I feel my daughter would be better off with the family who are looking after her now. She will be told all about her family background and culture by them. I want her to know all about that. I have not stopped caring about her. I want her to be happy," the mother said.

Mr Carter said the mother was worried that the child would face problems if she were placed with a black or mixed-race family.

"My client does not want a tragedy to happen. We want the council to think again. We feel the child will face problems when she is older if she is placed with a black family. She looks white, her mother looks white."

"The council have actually gone back as far as her great-grandfather from the West Indies to class her as black," he said.

A council spokesman said last night that the case was being reviewed and as the child was a ward of court her future would be decided by a judge once the council's recommendations had been made at the end of May.

"We have no policy as such on these matters but wherever possible we like to place children of mixed race with

families of a similar background. At the end of the day we must take into account what is best for the child," the spokesman said.

"In this case the situation is being reviewed. There is no suggestion that the child must be placed with a mixed-race or black family. We are looking into every possibility."

New guidelines on adoption and fostering were issued by the Government in January. The Department of Health told local authorities that in the vast majority of cases a child should be placed with a family of the same ethnic origin, but there was no absolute rule that a black child should always be placed with a black family.

Just a few days before the guidelines were issued a black mother failed in her High Court attempt to win back her six-year-old daughter from white foster parents. The judge, Mr Justice Scott Baker, described the case as "heart-rending" and ruled that the arguments for leaving the child with the family which had cared for her for six years were overwhelming.

In another much-publicized case the House of Lords decided last November that a white foster mother should hand over a 17-month-old mixed-race boy she had brought up since a few days after his birth to black foster parents for adoption.

on to take A levels and then to further education.

He was a "great cricketer" who played at schoolboy and county level.

His mother had a significant income of her own and paid for his upkeep.

The £13,000 approved by the judge would be placed in a special investment account for the boy.

Mr Perry-Lewis was said to have been earning £20,000 a year, with a company car, as business development assistant manager for a firm called R.P. Martin.

Lawyers for Mrs Perry-Lewis said the delay in settlement was the result of a dispute about which formula to use in calculating the amount of compensation.

A British Rail Board spokesman, however, put the delay down to the fact that final details of the claim had only been received on March 6. British Rail had made its offer of settlement last Wednesday.

He said that by the beginning of this month, 177 of the 392 claims arising out of the crash had been settled out of court and six of the 35 claims arising out of bereavement had also been settled.

He said many of the outstanding cases had not been settled because final claims had not been received.

"Solicitors representing claimants have delayed submitting final details for one reason or another partly because they are waiting for a claimant's medical condition to settle down."

Baroness Susan de Stempel had a "sinister" plan to keep her aunt, Lady Illingworth, behind barred windows in a house on the Channel Islands, Birmingham Crown Court was told yesterday.

The move to Alderney was an attempt to escape tax on her wealth, the court was told.

Baron Michael de Stempel told West Mercia police that he "vaguely" remembered discussing with a friend a ground-floor room with barred windows, where Lady Illingworth would live.

He said: "I think Susan said Lady Illingworth might wander into the road and get killed, but she may have had some sinister motive."

"I now think that Susan was a very sinister person."

The Baron told police that he was "coerced" by the Baroness into buying a £105,000 house in Alderney out of his £750,000 inheritance from his father.

"Susan made me go to the estate agents under coercion. I told her it was wrong that Lady Illingworth should be taken out of England," the Baron told police.

The purchase of the house in Alderney later fell through.

Michael de Stempel, aged 60, Marcus Wilberforce, aged 28, and Sophia Wilberforce, aged 27, all deny conspiring to steal the former society hostess's fortune. Baroness Susan de Stempel has pleaded guilty to five charges of theft and two of forgery. The case continues on Monday.

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Inventor sailing into the future

By Nick Nuttall
Technology Correspondent

A high-speed "wingsail" trimaran is undergoing trials at Plymouth Sound in preparation for a world-wide launch.

The design of the 30ft Zephyr is claimed to be revolutionary, making yachting accessible to even the most resolute land-lubber.

Like a car, the craft can reverse and do three-point turns. It is steered from a racing car-style cockpit and can reach speeds of up to 25 knots.

Instead of elaborate rigging and sails, the vessel is fitted with an aircraft-style wing that is moved by computer to take best advantage of wind direction and strength.

Power is delivered to the wing's motor by solar cells housed at the sail's apex with a tiny wind generator providing additional energy.

The captain can stop the craft either by disengaging the sail, allowing him to coast into port, or by turning the wing against the wind bringing the craft to a rapid halt.

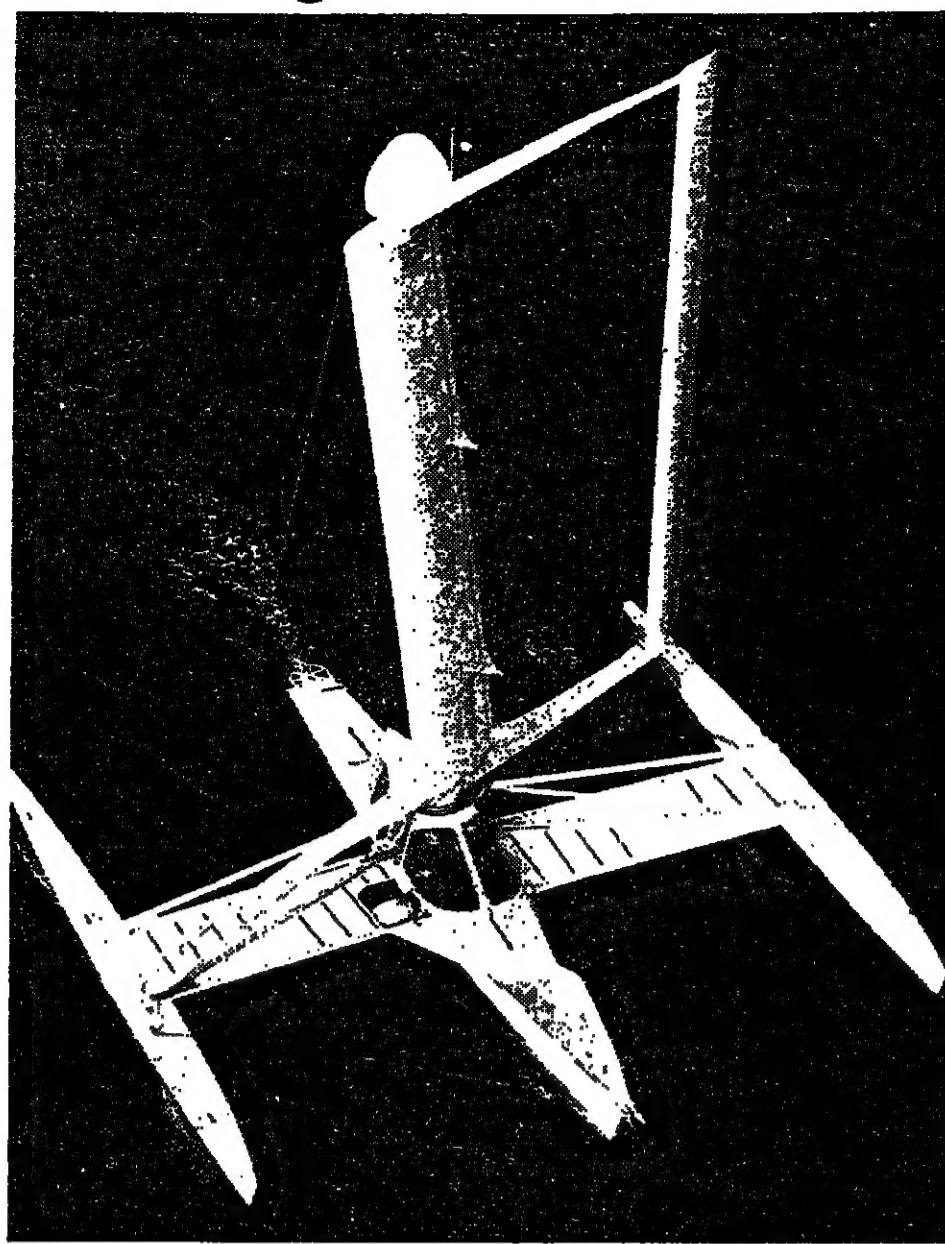
The trimaran is the invention of Mr John Walker, of Walker Wingsail Systems, Plymouth.

A former aerospace engineer who worked on Concorde, he has been developing the idea of yachts and ships powered by "wingsail" since the 1960s.

His plans have attracted interest from ocean-going liner and freight operators.

The fall in the price of oil in the past decade put paid to earlier dreams of powering the world's fleets from the sun and the wind.

However with renewed concern for the environment, Mr Walker believes such schemes may again be viable.



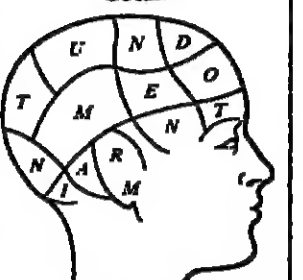
The prototype Zephyr "wingsail" trimaran being put through its paces in Plymouth Sound.



A Major Budget dilemma

● Budget Day is approaching with interest and mortgage rates at a high, inflationary pressures at large, and the Conservative Party fortunes plunging in the opinion polls. How will Chancellor John Major respond in the first televised Budget speech?

● On Tuesday, *The Times* Economics Editor Rodney Lord examines the options open to Mr Lawson's successor — and on Wednesday, in an in-depth eight-page special report, *The Times* examines Mr Major's solutions in detail.



TOURNAMENT OF THE MIND

● Thousands of readers are more than half-way through the challenge of *The Times* Tournament of the Mind 1990. Round 11 today offers the chance to test your word power.

● Entrants are playing to win £5,000 or, for the school team, a Hewlett Packard computer.

● All who enter the Tournament will receive a special certificate. Your chance at the prizes is on page 44.

Plus

● On Monday, *The Times* makes a special, pre-publication offer of the 1990 Guide to Museums and Galleries.

● This year's new, revised edition will be bigger and more detailed than ever, with 23 pages of full-colour maps, and with more than 800 museums offering *Times* Passport concessions.

PORTFOLIO

● There were no valid claims in yesterday's £2,000 Portfolio Platinum competition, so the prize money on Monday is doubled to £4,000.

Clapham victim's widow awarded £106,000

The widow of a money broker killed in the Clapham rail disaster was yesterday awarded £106,881, agreed damages against British Rail.

The husband of Mrs Carol Perry-Lewis, aged 43, of St Ives Gardens, Bournemouth, Dorset, was among the 35 who died in the crash in December 1988.

At the High Court Mr Justice Drake approved an award of £13,000 out of the damages sum to the couple's son Matthew, now 15.

The case was the first arising out of the disaster to reach the courts over the question of damages. British Rail admitted liability at an early stage.

The judge said he was glad the parties had been able to reach terms "which are thought to be satisfactory to

settle this matter".

After the short hearing Mrs Perry-Lewis said: "It is appalling that my family and I have had to come to court in order to achieve a sensible figure after the loss and tragedy we have been through in the last 15 months."

She added: "I think British Rail have treated the bereaved families and the many badly injured people very, very shabbily. I think it is appalling that we have had to do this and I think we have all suffered more than enough."

She said that at first British Rail offered her "very small amounts" as compensation and the case was only settled just before yesterday's hearing.

Mrs Perry-Lewis, who works as an employment

consultant in Wimborne, Dorset, said she had already written to her Bournemouth West MP, Mr John Butterfield. She would also be writing to Mr Cecil Parkinson, Secretary of State for Transport, about the conduct of the case.

The British Railways Board said: "It was a generous offer in line with our policy of making fair offers of compensation to those bereaved in the Clapham accident."

During the hearing Mr Charles Pugh, QC, for Mrs Perry-Lewis, said British Rail had at a very early stage "admitted responsibility in this matter".

The couple's son Matthew was now about to sit O levels and it was hoped he would go

on to take A levels and then to further education.

He was a "great cricketer" who played at schoolboy and county level.

His mother had a significant income of her own and paid for his upkeep.

The £13,000 approved by the judge would be placed in a special investment account for the boy.

Mr Perry-Lewis was said to have been earning £20,000 a year, with a company car, as business development assistant manager for a firm called R.P. Martin.

Lawyers for Mrs Perry-Lewis said the delay in settlement was the result of a dispute about which formula to use in calculating the amount of compensation.

A British Rail Board

Law Fair students pick public sector

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

Students hunting for jobs in the legal professions are turning increasingly towards the public sector, such as magistrates' courts, to "public interest" work and to Europe, judging by the first national Law Fair yesterday.

More than 5,000 students attended the two-day fair organized by London University's careers advisory service in association with *The Times* and the Law Society, and the verdict was that it had been an unqualified success.

The Crown Prosecution Service, the Magistrates' Courts' Service and the European Commission were all "deluged" with applications.

Mr Allan Green, QC, the Director of Public Prosecutions, who worked for a while on the CPS stand, said students were keen to know about vacancies.

The advent of 1992 is already having an impact on students' job plans. The European Commission received more than 400 inquiries from students and 200 requests for application forms.

Ms Laura Jackson, of the Commission's London office, said by the end of the first day at the Business Design Centre

in Islington, North London, all her information had been distributed and throughout all three staff on the stand were fully occupied.

She noted a particular interest from women "because the Commission is attractive for women entrants and seeks to give them equal career prospects".

Although the normal cut-off age for entrants is 35, the Commission will take women who have had a family up to six years after that.

Both the Legal Aid Practitioners' Group and the Magistrates' Courts' Service also reported "exceptional" interest.

Miss Hazel Davies, of the LAPG, said: "Students have been very pleased to be able to find out about legal aid firms."

So far big City firms still retain an edge with many students because of their sponsorship through finals courses. But they increasingly have to compete with sponsorship from the public sector.

Miss Anne-Marie Martin, senior careers advisor at London University, said the fair had been a huge success and next year it was likely to be expanded.

SALEROOM

Ferrari is expected to fetch £9m

By Sarah Jane Checkland, Art Market Correspondent

A Ferrari considered so important by Sotheby's that it has been given its own single lot sale is expected to fetch £9 million at auction on May 29.

The 1962 Ferrari 250 GTO won three consecutive world GT championships from 1962 to 1964. The climax and end of its career was in 1965, when it came first in the GT class at the Paris Grand Prix.

"Rarely does a car of this provenance survive more than 25 years with no modifications to the original specifications," Mr Malcolm Barber, of Sotheby's, said.

The Ferrari has been consigned by Mr Robin M. Rubin, an American collector and owner of a racing circuit on Long Island.

● A controversial exhibition of Victorian paintings opens at the Manchester City Art Galleries today.

It includes works from the British Rail Pension Fund collection which are expected to fetch up to £2.5 million at a Sotheby's auction on June 19.

The complaint is that a public gallery is being used as a showcase for the art market.

● The Noortman Gallery raised £650,000 for "Laughing Children with a Cat" by Judith Leyster, the Dutch 17th century artist, at the European Fine Art Fair in Maastricht yesterday. A beach scene by Boudin sold for £100,000 at Artemis Fine Art.

Policewoman commended

Rugby tackle felled raider

A policewoman sprint champion was awarded £100 in the Central Criminal Court yesterday for chasing and tackling an armed robber.

Constable Sharon Kenyon, aged 22, left two men colleagues far behind as she chased Panicos Vassiliou, aged 22, for about 100 yards before bringing him down with a rugby tackle.

Judge Lewisohn said: "She is to be highly commended. She showed remarkable courage and led the chase before tackling the defendant. She was told he was armed and was not to know that the gun he was carrying was an imitation."

Miss Kenyon is based at Wood Green police station in north London and is the holder of a police record for sprinting.

Panicos Vassiliou, of Victor Villas, Great Cambridge Road, Edmonton, north London, was jailed for six years.

The court was told that Vassiliou had carried out four raids on two different building societies between March 3 and June 3 last year. In all, he had escaped with nearly £6,000.

Mrs Carol Beary, aged 35, a building society clerk at the Bradford and Bingley Building Society in Wood Green High Street, had alerted the police after spotting Vassiliou three days after he had robbed the building society.

The judge awarded Mrs Beary £400 for her public spiritedness.

The chase began with Vassiliou darting down a side street. The policewoman soon caught up with the raider and

knocked him to the ground. Her colleagues then caught up and helped her to arrest the robber. Mr Anthony Wilken, for the prosecution, said Vassiliou had robbed Alliance and Leicester building society in Wood Green High Street three times. He had become so familiar that, on the third occasion, one of the women clerks had shouted out: "Look out, girls, we are going to be raided again."

On all the raids, Vassiliou was armed with an imitation gun and did not disguise himself. The raids were filmed on a video camera.

Mr Michael Sayers, for the defence, said that Vassiliou had turned to crime to pay for his gambling addiction.

"He was remarkably naive, robbing the same building society three times and then holding up the Bradford and Bingley, which was just down the road. His gun was no more than a child's toy."

The move to Alderney was an attempt to escape tax on her wealth, the court was told.

Baron Michael de Stempel told West Mercia police that he "vaguely" remembered discussing with a friend a ground-floor room with barred windows, where Lady Illingworth would live.

He said: "I think Susan said Lady Illingworth might wander into the road and get killed, but she may have had some sinister motive."

"I now think that Susan was a very sinister person."

The Baron told police that he was "coerced" by the Baroness into buying a £105,000 house in Alderney out of his £750,000 inheritance from his father.

"Susan made me go to the estate agents under coercion. I told her it was wrong that Lady Illingworth should be taken out of England," the Baron told police.

The purchase of the house in Alderney later fell through.

Michael de Stempel, aged 60, Marcus Wilberforce, aged 28, and Sophia Wilberforce, aged 27, all deny conspiring to steal the former society hostess's fortune. Baroness Susan de Stempel has pleaded guilty to five charges of theft and two of forgery. The case continues on Monday.

Baroness Susan de Stempel had a "sinister" plan to keep her aunt, Lady Illingworth, behind barred windows in a house on the Channel Islands, Birmingham Crown Court was told yesterday.

The move to Alderney was an attempt to escape tax on her wealth, the court was told.

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Surrey judge urges young Scot to take high road

A judge in Surrey yesterday advised a young defendant to "go back up north", telling him: "You're a Scot and you don't speak English."

Judge Ellison, who said he had dispensed such advice before, added: "When you should be saying 'Yes' you say 'Aye'... I strongly recommend you pack up your things and go back home."

Karl Mowberry, aged 21 who was born in Dundee, admitted assaulting three women.

Gatford Crown Court was told that the unemployed painter ran up behind his victims and tried to fondle them. Mowberry had moved south in

stages, first to Blyth in Northumberland and then on to Wimbledon, south London, where he was living in a YMCA hostel and had become mixed up in drug-taking.

The judge told the court he was known for advising defendants to move on.

"My name has been bandied about because I recommended a man should go back to Barrow-in-Furness. Every-one thought that was offensive but quite why I do not know."

"I know Blyth and I can understand your problems with finding work, what with the coal-mining industry having gone down hill and ship-building no

longer existing. But I strongly recommend you pack up your things and go back home."

"You don't know anybody down here and you might think it far more sensible to go back to Northumberland or perhaps to Newcastle or west to Carlisle. There are all sorts of possibilities."

"If you want to stay here you can but it is only when you moved south that you got mixed up with people with drugs. You want to keep out of their hands."

Judge Ellison said he was satisfied from a medical report that Mowberry only got involved in drugs which may

have been responsible for his behaviour when he moved to London.

He sentenced Mowberry to nine months in prison but said he should be freed at the end of the day after he was told the length of time he had spent behind bars while on remand.

Last May, Judge Ellison caused controversy when he told an alcoholic who appeared before him at Reading, Berkshire, that he was a social nuisance and a menace to society and not wanted in the South.

Judge Ellison, a former Royal Navy officer, suggested that the man should go back to Barrow to try to get a job in the shipyards.

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'Brooke initiative' may yet bear fruit in Northern Ireland

By Edward Gorman
Irish Affairs Correspondent

In spite of appearances to the contrary, the Government believes that political progress in Northern Ireland is still possible and that the 'Brooke initiative' may yet bear fruit.

Recent developments have cast doubt on the likelihood of Mr Peter Brooke, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, being able to draw together Northern Ireland's constitutional parties for talks on the future government there.

Meetings which he has held with party leaders, most recently with the Unionists in London on Thursday, appear to have achieved little more than to establish the

basis of the problem and to define the extent of party differences.

Mr James Molyneux, of the Ulster Unionist Party, and Dr Ian Paisley, of the Democratic Unionist Party, have made it clear they will not talk until the Government declares in advance that it is prepared to replace the Anglo-Irish Agreement and then agree to suspend the Anglo-Irish Conference and Secretariat.

Mr John Hume, leader of the nationalist Social Democratic and Labour Party, is prepared to talk but only if the agreement is left untouched. Dublin, meanwhile, remains nervous of any attempts by the Government to accede to Unionist demands, particularly over suspension of the secretariat. There has

been no sign of the required fundamental shift in any of the parties that would enable Mr Brooke to break out of this deadlock.

In addition, this week's decision by the Irish Supreme Court not to extradite two escaped prisoners, and an earlier decision reaffirming the Republic of Ireland's territorial claim over the Six Counties, have made it even more difficult for Unionists to consider conciliation.

The party leaders have remained restrained. In the lower ranks, however, Unionists are no longer disguising their hopes that Mr Brooke will fail. Government sources seem anxious to point out that, however difficult it may be to see

from outside, there is a process of 'political maturing' going on.

The Government is encouraged most by what officials regard as a common desire among the constitutional party leaders in the North, and Mr Charles Haughey, the Irish Prime Minister, for talks and for progress, even if no one can agree in advance what such talks might produce.

The Government believes the three main parties in Northern Ireland are largely in agreement that power in some form must return to Belfast, and each recognizes that they must talk with each other as well as with Dublin and London.

Official sources emphasize that, mind-

ful of past errors, the Government is adopting a cautious 'enabling' approach and great care will be taken to ensure that even if the process temporarily runs out of steam, it will not be allowed to grind to an indefinite halt and thereby make future initiatives have to start from square one.

Officials believe the present phase of 'exploratory' discussions will reach a conclusion some time in May or July when there may be an attempt to proceed or to put the process on hold.

As an example of the positive attitude among Unionist leaders in particular, officials quote the decision by both Dr Paisley and Mr Molyneux not to succumb to the temptation to use the

extradition decision as a pretext to pull out of the whole process when they met Mr Brooke.

The widow of Mr Harold McCusker, the Ulster Unionist MP who died of cancer last month, is seeking to replace him in the House of Commons.

Mrs Jennifer McCusker said she was to seek the party's nomination for her late husband's Upper Bann constituency. She said her move came after approaches by friends and supporters.

Mrs McCusker was for many years her husband's agent and secretary and largely looked after the constituency in his declining months.

Mr McCusker had a majority of 17,361 at the last general election.

Judges back privacy law to stop press intrusions

A reporter and photographer who gashed their way into the hospital room of Gordon Kaye the 'Allo 'Allo star were guilty of a "monstrous invasion of privacy", a senior judge said yesterday.

Lord Justice Bingham and his fellow Court of Appeal judges, Lords Justices Glidewell and Leggatt, said that what happened to Mr Kaye highlighted the need for new laws to protect the privacy of individuals.

The judges issued a court order restricting what the *Sunday Sport* can publish as a result of its reporting team's unauthorized visit to Mr Kaye in Charing Cross Hospital, central London, where he was recovering from brain injuries received when a piece of wood smashed through the windscreen of his car during the January gales.

The court banned the *Sunday Sport* from publishing anything indicating that Mr Kaye had consented to the interview and photographs on the ground that the actor had an arguable case that this would be "malicious falsehood".

However, the judges allowed the paper's appeal against a wider-ranging ban granted by a High Court judge on other grounds, including alleged libel and trespass to the person. The High Court had imposed a total ban on publication of any photograph taken of Mr Kaye, and any statement made by him, at the hospital.

Lord Justice Glidewell said that on February 13 the reporter and photographer from the *Sunday Sport* — described in court as a lurid and sensational paper which advertised pornographic material — ignored notices specifying who could visit Mr Kaye. They interviewed him and took photographs without

his consent. He was in no fit state to agree to what happened and, within 15 minutes, after security staff had thrown the reporting team out, he had no recollection of the incident.

"The facts of the case are a graphic illustration of the desirability of Parliament considering whether and in what circumstances statutory provision can be made to protect the privacy of individuals," the judge said.

Lord Justice Bingham said the case illustrated the law's failure to protect the personal privacy of individual citizens. "The defendants' conduct towards Mr Kaye was a monstrous invasion of his privacy," he said.

Mr Andrew Robertson, the paper's editor, had described the interview as "a great old-fashioned scoop".

However, Lord Justice Bingham said: "If ever a person has a right to be left alone by strangers with no public interest to pursue, it must surely be when he lies in hospital recovering from brain surgery and in no more than partial command of his faculties. It is this invasion of his privacy which underlies this complaint. Yet it alone, however gross, does not entitle him to relief in English law."

Mr Kaye was entitled only to a limited injunction, pending a full hearing of his complaint, because he had an arguable case that it would be a malicious falsehood to state that he had given his consent.

Lord Justice Leggatt said the time had come for shortcomings in the law relating to people's privacy to be put right. Protection against abuse of press freedom could only be ensured by the enforcement of a right to privacy.

That right had been long disregarded and laws were needed quickly on the issue.

Global warming is 'main Green issue'

By Kerry Gill

Global warming was the most important issue facing "green" campaigners, one of the movement's leading figures said yesterday.

Mr George Campbell, development officer of the Scottish Green Party, said he was convinced that the recent unusual weather trends, such as milder winters, record rainfall, drought and hurricanes, were a result of the way the earth was being mismanaged.

He told the party's annual conference in Glasgow: "Science, of course, is saying that it is too early to tell, and that more research needs to be done before we can really be sure. Unfortunately, by the

time they are sure, it will be too late.

"We should at every attempt draw the political debate to the time-bomb that is global warming. As Greens who take the long-term view on progress, that is the most imperative issue we face."

Another speaker, Mrs Isobel Lindsay, the national convenor for the Campaign for a Scottish Assembly, said Scotland had great environmental opportunities and problems.

"We need to develop appropriate policies in transport, energy, agriculture, forestry, fishing and planning to ensure that we develop our environmental potential positively," she said.

The unlikely revolutionaries of Bishop's Green

By Ray Clancy

The village of Bishop's Green in Berkshire is the least likely spawning ground for revolutionaries imaginable.

Yet hand-painted "fight the poll tax" posters were evident in almost every window of the village yesterday. The revolt had begun in the local shop, where residents were only too ready to sign a petition as they bought bread and milk.

Nestling in the rolling hills between the Tory strongholds of Newbury in Berkshire and Basingstoke in Hampshire, the village has become a blot on the Conservative landscape, with over 200 of its 300 inhabitants declaring that they will not pay the tax.

Over the garden fences, the main topic of conversation is the community charge.

Mr Ron Allen, who runs the village's only shop, started up the anti-poll tax petition two weeks ago, without realizing he was sparking a revolution.

"The strength of feeling has amazed me. Many of us would rather go to prison than pay. People come in for a pint of milk and sign the petition. They all tell me they won't be paying," Mr Allen said. He used to pay £700 in rates, but now faces a bill of almost £3,000 because of the new system of business rates.

The reason for the disquiet is easy to pinpoint. The village has no street lights, no post office, no telephone box, no newspaper delivery service, no pub and just one bus a day. Most of the council houses have peeling paint and the once bright front doors are drab. Refuse is collected once a week but, somehow, heaps of cardboard boxes and the gutters are missed and a large skip in the village square is overflowing with everything from dried-up old Christmas trees to black bags full of household rubbish. The only



Villagers of Bishop's Green in Berkshire gather under the banner proclaiming their defiance. The village has few amenities.

litter bin is outside the village shop and the swings in the children's playground are broken.

"We have nothing here. It is lethal after dark for the children, especially in the winter. If you want to walk across the

street to a neighbour's house you need a torch. I don't see why we should pay. I won't pay," said Mrs Patricia Price aged 36, who has lived in Bishop's Green for 11 years and has four children aged between three and 14. She and

her husband used to pay £28 a week in rent and rates. To pay the £329 poll tax set by Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council they will need to find another £10 a week. "We simply can't afford it. No wonder some people give up

their jobs, it seems you are better off unemployed. It will mean less at Christmas for all of us. Holidays? That's a joke. We never have one," Mrs Price said. The villagers have been holding regular meetings and

Councils double charges for second-home owners

Almost every owner of a second home in England and Wales will have to pay double poll tax bills regardless of the size of the property or the amount of time they use it, according to a survey by *The Times* (Ray Clancy writes).

The charges vary from £380 in the Brecon Beacons in Powys to the £790 being levied by Torbay Borough Council, Devon, which covers the "English Riviera" resorts of Torquay and Paignton.

It is up to each local authority to decide how much to charge on empty property, holiday homes and second homes up to a maximum of twice the personal charge. Almost all have opted for the maximum on second homes.

No distinction is drawn between a weekend cottage, a *piet-a-terre* for business in the

categories to deal with every possible circumstance, including home owners who have moved away but are having difficulty selling their property and those required to live in an area because of their job.

For example, Brighton, which has about 4,500 second and holiday homes, has decided to charge £744, twice the personal charge, but it is willing to look at cases where a person is required to stay elsewhere because of employment.

Property that is unfurnished and empty is likely to be exempt from poll tax for the first three months. Holiday or second homes where planning restrictions prevent year-round habitation or which are undergoing structural repairs may be exempt for six months, and some councils are charging

just one poll tax under those circumstances. Inherited property should be exempt for three months after probate has been granted but some councils are willing to extend that period if a family is having genuine difficulty selling up.

In Cornwall, Devon and Dorset, three of the most popular areas with second-home owners the double poll tax bills are much higher than average rates last year.

North Cornwall District Council is charging £600, yet average rates last year were £320. Bournemouth Borough Council will collect about £1.28 million from its 2,000 second-home owners who face bills of £540.

Owners of beach huts in King's Lynn, Norfolk, will pay only the personal charge but the area's 3,000 second-home

owners will pay double — £562. In the Lake district the double charge amounts to £700 and on the Gower peninsula, West Glamorgan, to £481.

However, Rushcliffe district council in Nottinghamshire is only levying a single personal charge, which is £394 on second home owners and half that for owners of riverside chalets.

In Scotland, where the poll tax was introduced a year ago, most councils charged a double amount on second homes but have reduced that for 1990/91 to a single charge or one and a half times it.

Throughout the country, property used for holiday letting for 140 days a year or more is subject to the new uniform business rate.

Caravans on holiday sites are not liable for poll tax but it

is likely the site owner will pass on any increase in business rates by higher charges. Boroughs in London are set to collect millions of pounds from second home owners, who are mostly businessmen working in the City during the week, and MPs who have homes in their constituency.

Westminster City Council, which has set one of the lowest poll taxes in the country, at £195, is confident of collecting £5 million from second-home owners paying double the personal charge.

● Poll tax losers for owner-winners in Scotland's biggest region, according to a survey by Strathclyde University's Department of Government published yesterday. It shows that residents in 15 of Strathclyde's 19 districts are worse off under the tax.

March 16 1990

PARLIAMENT

Fowler says child benefit must not wither away

Child benefit should neither be abolished nor allowed to wither away, Sir Norman Fowler, former Secretary of State for Employment and for Social Services, argued in his first Commons speech since resigning from the Cabinet in January.

In a debate on family policy he also said that in his Budget next week, Mr John Major should abolish the tax on the fringe benefit of workplace nurseries.

Mr Timothy Raison (Aylesbury, C), a former Home Office minister, opening the debate, said that a coherent and all-encompassing family policy was needed. The traditional institution of marriage was still the best mechanism for bringing up children.

Britain, with Denmark, had the highest divorce rate in the European Community. A high proportion of crime was committed by people from broken homes. A campaign for marriage could be at least as valuable as one against drug-taking and AIDS.

He did not know that it was right to adopt a no-fault policy in divorce. The middle-aged man who abandoned his wife in favour of a pretty young girl did seem to have a moral responsibility.

A case was put forward for tax relief on nursery or day care for working mothers, but why tip the balance in favour of mothers who were working and therefore also in receipt of an income?

Child benefit had strong advantages. It was neutral and went to all mothers, whether working or not.

"If we increased child benefit

FAMILY POLICY

by enough it could go to help the unmarried mothers and single parents, who exist in such large numbers, without spotlighting them and without having to find a specific benefit to support them.

"It is a bit absurd to go on grumbling about child benefit on the grounds that it is indiscriminate, yet to support tax allowances of all shapes and sizes which are, to put it mildly, indiscriminate except that in most cases they discriminate in favour of the better off."

Child benefit had to be updated if it was to be meaningful, but there was a case for something more dramatic.

"It would be possible to double child benefit if we were to scrap the tax allowance to married couples and unmarried couples without children."

"The case for those who have children to receive this benefit rather than those who are married, is a very powerful one. That would not happen overnight. It should be phased in, but that is the direction to move in."

Sir Norman Fowler (Sutton Coldfield, C) said that it was one thing not to update child benefit over one or two years, but another to make that a permanent policy. He would oppose that.

"I would certainly oppose the abolition of child benefit and I would oppose a policy of allowing it simply to wither away."

It would be a serious error to



Mrs Carrie: Steering at working mothers is wrong.

abandon child benefit. It was a popular benefit.

The tax on workplace nurseries should be abolished in next week's Budget. Since early 1985, employers' subsidies to workplace nurseries had been taxed as a fringe benefit.

It was wrong to say that women who worked were unable to bring up their families. It was very much in the interests of the Government and the country that women should go to work.

Government policy should aim to make it easier for women to raise families and pursue a career, if that was what women chose. That was one of the most profound challenges of the 1990s. It was a challenge that he hoped the Government could meet.

Dr John Reid (Motherwell North, Lab) said that if children

were brought up in an economic jungle one could not be surprised when they behaved like animals. That was what had happened to many children, Thatcher's children.

The poll tax was a family-making and family-breaking tax. Children in Scotland were being told: "Pay up or pack up."

Mrs Edwina Currie (South Derbyshire, C), the former health minister, said that she was not convinced that higher child benefits were the best way to help families with children.

Help could be better directed to the poorest families.

Tax relief on child care would cost far less than the £5 billion on child benefit.

The six-fold increase in the divorce rate since 1970 was appalling. It was painful and affected an enormous number of children. Four hundred children a day went through parents' divorce and this was a national tragedy.

Anyone who steered at working mothers was wrong. A fulfilled woman was a happy woman and a happy woman often made a happy family. "My family would never find it acceptable if I was stuck at home whingeing."

She did not want to pressure women to work. There should be a choice. But if the care of children was so important, it should not be left to women. Children needed both parents.

resolved to the satisfaction of the wife combining care of the family and work was another matter. Wives would like more help. "I exclude my husband from this because he is super."

"In the end we know who is being selfish. It is not women going out to work. It is the chap who comes home, thinks that everything is done without his help or intervention, expects warm slippers, a hot supper and, dare I say, a steaming bed afterwards. There will be some women who find fulfilment in providing it. Some of us try to do that with a job as well."

Eighty per cent of new jobs being created would have to be filled by women in the next five years, but polls showed that a high proportion of women would be prepared to return to work if there was some child care provision.

Workplace nurseries were not the complete answer. They involved long journeys and a child had to find somewhere else after the age of five.

Child care vouchers were a better idea. They were not convertible into cash. They were flexible. The problem was that they were taxed even more heavily than workplace benefit.

Mr Frank Field (Birkenhead, Lab) said that if families and individuals were to be freed from the trap of means-tested welfare, unpleasant decisions would have to be taken.

One of those decisions would be to say that when a universal benefit was increased, that did not necessarily mean increasing the rate for means-tested support by the same proportion.

A large increase in child benefit, for example, should not be matched by increasing income support to the same level, otherwise there would be no chance of taking families off means-tested welfare.

Mr Julian Brazier (Canterbury, C) said that he was opposed to tax relief on child care facilities. It would be better to permit tax allowances for mothers, whose husbands were working, to be transferred to the husbands.

Miss Joan Lester, Opposition spokeswoman on children, said that there was a danger that if employers provided child care provision for working mothers they might remove it in time of recession. It was better to have a Government co-ordinated approach.

Child benefit should be updated in the Budget. The universal concept of the benefit should be preserved.

She was also concerned at the addition of many children to play truant from school. The parents of young gamblers were very worried about what was happening to their children.

Mr John Patten, Minister of State, Home Office, said that he was prepared to shoulder the blame for many things, but not for having failed to prevent people from getting into trouble. He must shoulder the responsibility to do all we possibly can for those trying not to part.

Marriages may be made in Heaven, but government could help with the maintenance work.

Budget help, page 10

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The Department of the Environment will announce a decision soon on whether to allow the demolition of a rare and remarkable Victorian house in the City of London.

The Orange, at Stoney Creek, near Hellenham, was built in 1866 and retains many of the original features.

The exterior is described by the conservation group as 'Britain's last great Victorian house' with its leaded and painted windows, painted and stained walls, carved ironwork and iron-studded doors and a horror-story proportions.

Researchers claim 'breakthrough' in irradiation testing

By Michael Hornsby, Agriculture Correspondent

Government scientists yesterday announced a "breakthrough" in the search for a reliable method of testing whether food has been irradiated.

"We are making very substantial progress in detection techniques," Dr Cecil McMurray, Chief Scientific Officer at the Department of Agriculture in Belfast, said.

The absence of a reliable test has been one of the main arguments used by those opposed to irradiation, a process which the Government maintains could significantly reduce food poisoning.

At present food irradiation is allowed only for sterilizing certain hospital diets. The Government however intends to permit wider use of the technology under proper controls. It is already permitted in 33 countries.

Mr John Gummer, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, has promised that all irradiated food will be clearly labelled (even restaurants will have to state on their menus whether they are using any) so that consumers are given a clear choice.

Critics of irradiation say it

will not be possible to enforce labelling regulations without any means of testing whether foodstuffs have been irradiated.

Dr McMurray and researchers at the department's laboratories at Queen's University, where a large part of research on food irradiation is carried out, say they have found a way of determining whether poultry containing bone has been irradiated.

Using a technique known as electron spin resonance spectroscopy, they are able to detect the presence of stable free radicals - unpaired electrons - in the bone, which are induced by irradiation and would not be there if the meat had not been treated.

Further research is being done to see whether it will be possible to measure the exact dose of irradiation administered. Researchers are confident their testing method will produce results "robust enough" to stand up in court.

The department expects to be able to announce "significant new developments in the near future". These are to be discussed in the scientific journal *Nature*. Dr McMurray said

it might be possible to use the same testing technique to pick up the free radicals in microscopic fragments of shell in shellfish.

"There are also other techniques which could have an application for a wider range of foods," he said.

The scientists say irradiation has been proved to destroy salmonella and listeria bacteria in poultry at a level of dosage that poses no threat to human health.

They believe the technique could also be used commercially to kill spoilage bacteria, prolonging the shelf life of certain fruit and vegetables. Research is being done in Belfast on using irradiation to prevent mushrooms from continuing to grow after harvest.

At present the testing equipment is cumbersome and expensive, costing about £100,000. Trading Standards officers would thus have to take food samples away from supermarkets and restaurants to be tested.

Dr McMurray said other techniques being developed could make it possible to produce a portable testing kit.

Surgery sets crippled soldier on his feet

By Thomson Prentice
Science Correspondent

A soldier wounded in the Romanian revolution has been helped to walk again by a unique operation by surgeons in a London hospital.

Sergeant Orlando Draga, aged 19, was crippled by a high-velocity, exploding bullet while defending a munitions store in Bucharest. The bullet shattered the sciatic nerve, the main nerve in the thigh, in his left leg.

He was flown to Britain for advanced microvascular surgery after an appeal to the Department of Health from the Romanian Ministry of Defence. The operation was carried out by Professor Angus McGrouther, Britain's only professor of plastic surgery, at University College Hospital, London.

"He was lucky not to have bled to death after being shot," Professor McGrouther said yesterday. "His leg was paralyzed and he would have been crippled for life had he not received this surgery."

The sciatic nerve controls muscles in the thigh and provides sensation to the sole of the foot. In the operation, a 5in length of sural nerve in the calf was removed, cut into sections and transplanted into the gap in the sciatic nerve. Removal of part of the sural nerve does not seriously impair walking ability.

The surgery, performed with the aid of an operating microscope, involved matching thousands of fibres within



Sergeant Draga, who should be walking unaided within six months, being examined by Professor McGrouther yesterday.

the sciatic nerve. It was the first time the technique was used in Britain for a bullet wound, and the work was funded by the hospital's Phoenix Appeal, a charity which

sponsors Professor McGrouther's research programme.

Five weeks after the operation Sergeant Draga can move his ankles and toes and feeling has returned to his feet. Doc-

tors predict he will be able to walk without crutches within six months.

"Every day I feel better," the soldier said through an interpreter. "I want to thank

the professor and all the doctors and nurses."

Professor McGrouther has been invited to Romania to teach his reconstructive surgery techniques.

Aids threat

Edinburgh 'could soon see epidemic'

By Kerry Gill

A new Aids epidemic could break out in Edinburgh in a few years, it was predicted yesterday at a conference on drugs and HIV infection.

Dr Ray Brettle, of the City Hospital, Edinburgh, said peak numbers of drug abusers had contracted the virus in Edinburgh during 1983. As the average time for infection to develop into full-blown Aids was about eight years, he said, a new wave of cases could emerge soon.

Edinburgh has one of the worst records of HIV infection in any European city. This is largely due to the widespread habit among drug addicts in the Scottish capital of sharing needles, in spite of schemes to encourage free needle exchanges.

Dr Brettle, speaking to the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Aids, called for specialist advice to be given to drug abusers to help reduce the spread of the virus.

He also appealed for more funds for research in Edinburgh. "Tragically, this is probably the only place where you can study transmission of the virus," he said.

Dr Gavin Strang, Labour MP for Edinburgh East, said it was "rubbish" to suggest that the HIV virus could not be transmitted heterosexually. "It is clear that some of the earlier predictions were too high, but there is no doubt that the virus is being transmitted through heterosexual practices."

Dr Strang also said a significant number of heterosexual men appeared to adopt homosexual practices in prison, contributing to the spread of the disease.

Dr George Bath, Aids co-

ordinator of Lothian Health Board, said the number of drug abusers contracting the virus in the region had stabilized to an increase of some 5 per cent a year, compared with the rapid explosion of the mid-1980s.

However he warned: "There can be absolutely no confidence that the situation will remain as such."

At the meeting medical authorities expressed concern that some heterosexuals were refusing to change their sexual behaviour after claims that the disease could not be spread through normal sexual activity.

Mr Michael Forsyth, Health Minister at the Scottish Office, said there would be a substantial increase in the number of Aids cases and deaths in the coming years.

The Government's intention, he added, was to ensure facilities were in place when and where they were needed. With this in mind, the Scottish Office had increased allocations to £15 million to enable boards to deal with the disease.

Health boards should be prepared to offer simple apologies to aggrieved patients, rather than assuming that any admission of fault could lead to court action, the new Health Service Commissioner for Scotland said last night.

Mr William Reid, making his first public speech in Peebles, said: "A remedy, such as a simple apology or a change in procedure, is by no means always offered. There is not yet universal readiness to tell the individual that a complaint can be pursued further through my office."



The Grange, a remarkable example of Victorian neo-Gothic

Landmark verdict due on rare house

By John Young

The Department of the Environment will announce a decision soon on whether to allow the demolition of a rare and remarkable example of unspoilt Victorian neo-Gothic taste.

The Grange, at Bishop's Cleeve, near Cheltenham, was built in 1865 and retains many of the original interior features.

The exterior is described by the conservation group, Save Britain's Heritage, as "a plethora of neo-Gothic detail with its leaded and mullioned windows, pointed arched doorways, carved foliate capitals, and iron-studded doorways of horror-story proportions."

In 1988 the house and the surrounding parkland were acquired by the Eagle Star Insurance group for its new headquarters. Planning permission was granted by Tewkesbury District Council last year but a resident colony of bats, a protected species, delayed its demolition. In the meantime, conservationists successfully applied to the department for the house to be spot-listed as of historical and architectural interest.

Eagle Star has since applied for the house to be de-listed. Save Britain's Heritage describes the impending decision as having serious implications for conservation policy.

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Likud knives out for Shamir after defeat in Knesset

From Richard Owen, Jerusalem

Moves were under way yesterday in a demoralized Likud party to stage a "palace revolution" against Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Israeli Prime Minister, brought down late on Thursday by a Knesset vote of no confidence.

Despite last-minute manoeuvring by Mr Shamir to gain a majority by courting powerful religious parties, he became the first Israeli leader to fall by such means. The challenge to his leadership of Likud comes from the right, led by Mr Ariel Sharon, the former general.

Meanwhile, a jubilant Mr Shimon Peres, the Labour leader, announced that he intended to form a government with the purpose of salvaging the proposed Israeli-Palestinian dialogue in Cairo. He immediately started negotiations with the Orthodox Jewish groups which hold the balance of power.

If there was a dominant image in this week's political drama, which gripped most of the nation, it was the sight of one official limousine after another pulling up on Thursday afternoon outside the Jerusalem home of Rabbi Ovadia Yosef, the former Chief Rabbi.

First in the queue was Mr Shamir, who together with most of the Likud front bench abandoned the Knesset in a bid to delay the crucial vote while he wooed Shas, the religious party of which Rabbi Yosef is the spiritual head. Hard on his heels came the Labour leaders for talks centred on the US peace plan.

No one knows what deals were struck. But in the end it was the decision by most Shas deputies to abstain — indeed,

not to attend the vote at all — which brought down Mr Shamir. Although many of the Orthodox leaders are right-wing, a surprising number share Labour's approach to the peace question.

Most Israelis, watching the televised debate, realized that Mr Shamir was doomed when the cameras panned empty Shas chairs in the Knesset. Without their votes, Mr Shamir could not survive.

Yesterday, the eve of the Jewish Sabbath, this overt



Mr Sharon: Dominated the stormy Knesset debate.

display of clerical power was taken up in the secular Israeli press. "If the state of Israel is really ruled by Rabbi Yosef and not by Likud or Labour," *Hadashot* commented, "what does it matter if Shimon knocks out Yitzhak or vice versa?"

The Israeli electoral system, and the resulting Knesset arithmetic, has given the religious parties — Shas, Degel Hatorah, Agudat Israel and the National Religious Party — a vital role since the last elections in November, 1988. They will have an even more

central role in manoeuvring to form a new government. President Herzog will hold talks not only with Labour and Likud, but also with Shas tomorrow.

Mr Peres was confident that he could form a government. Influenced perhaps by the euphoria on the left, the Labour leader spoke of gaining a majority of 70 seats in the 120-member Knesset, 10 more than he obtained in the no confidence vote. He said a Labour-led administration would pay more towards religious education and would be attentive to Orthodox sensitivities.

But in a more sober atmosphere yesterday even Labour sources said that Mr Peres's chances of forming a new government were far from a foregone conclusion.

A glance at the Labour front bench on Thursday showed men of considerable weight and experience — Mr Yitzhak Rabin, Mr Ezra Weizman, Mr Mordechai Gur — who led Israel to victory in the Six-Day War of 1967.

Conversely Likud has few such ex-warriors in its front ranks, in a country where military service is central to society. The one Likud figure who can match Labour in this sense is Mr Sharon, a great bear of a man who on Thursday managed to dominate even the stormy debating chamber with a passionate speech opposing the peace talks.

The other Likud challengers for Mr Shamir's mantle are Mr David Levy, the Deputy Prime Minister, and Mr Moshe Arens, the US-educated Foreign Minister.

Leading article, page 11

Sizzling colour to beat winter blues

DEZIL MCHENANCE



Stepping out in style, Paris models flaunting the latest creations for autumn and winter of world fashion maestros yesterday. Hot pants and scarcely-there minis, predicted to be the fashionable woman's staples this summer, are now being carried through into the later collections (Renter reports from Paris). Thick thighs and thigh boots are the only concessions designers are making to the weather.

Karl Lagerfeld, the West German

designer, combined innovation with femininity. The look was leggy, flirtatious and perfectly suited to the adolescent girls Lagerfeld now favours as models. That archetypal Lagerfeld creation, the wasp-waisted jacket with asymmetric lapels, scooped hems and sharply sloping pockets, left, was cut shorter and sharper than ever.

In bright mauve, pink, red and jade, these frock coats were framed in black, worn over dark tights, clearing an inch of

schoolgirl mini or topping high suede boots.

Earlier yesterday the classic designer Hubert de Givenchy reminded buyers what Paris fashion is traditionally all about with a sophisticated preview. Models teetered by in sexy leather pencil skirts, stiletto heels and padded-shouldered jackets which bucked the current trend for natural contours and softer silhouettes. His leopard print cocktail dress, right, was part of the collection.

Singh in crisis as deputy resigns

From Coomi Kapoor, Delhi

After less than four months, the Government of Mr V.P. Singh was plunged into crisis yesterday with the resignation of the Deputy Prime Minister, Mr Devi Lal.

The 75-year-old Mr Lal resigned in protest against growing pressure within his Janata Dal Party to force his son, Mr Om Prakash Chautala, to resign as Chief Minister of the small north Indian state of Haryana.

Mr Chautala has been accused by the press and some members of his own party of misuse of official machinery and vote-rigging in a recent by-election. The election was countermanded by the Election Commission for widespread malpractices.

Mr Lal's supporters claim that he was being vilified by the press. He himself was angry that his party rival, Mr Ajit Singh, who has called for Mr Chautala's resignation, was not reprimanded by the Janata Dal bosses.

Mr Lal's resignation is interpreted as a means of trying to force the Prime Minister's hand in allowing Mr Chautala to continue as Chief Minister. Mr V.P. Singh is in an extremely precarious position since his minority National Front Government, with only 142 out of 525 seats in Parliament, survives thanks to the support of the Communist Party and the pro-Hindu Bharatiya Janata party. The Government's allies have also been pressing for Mr Chautala's resignation.

Mr Rajiv Gandhi's Congress party is delighted with events, for it feels that if Mr Lal is sufficiently angry he could quit the party and bring down the Government.

US digs in against forcing boat people home

By Rosemary Righter

The United States has made it clear to Britain that it remains adamantly opposed to forcible repatriation from Hong Kong of Vietnamese boat people not accepted as refugees.

As Mr Richard Solomon, Assistant Secretary for East Asian and Pacific Affairs at the State Department, left London yesterday after talks at the Foreign Office, senior US officials said the US would never agree to involuntary repatriation.

"I think you know what is carved in there at the base of the Statue of Liberty," one official declared.

"This is an absolutely fun-

damental principle for the American people — including those who have come to the US from the re-education camps of Vietnam."

The statement is certain to disappoint Foreign Office ministers, who have recently been hinting at a softening of the US attitude.

Mr Solomon denied that the US, as Britain claims, had accepted the principle of mandatory repatriation, while insisting on a delay of 12 months to let voluntary measures work. That appears to represent a hardening of Washington's position since the last meeting of the 30-nation steering committee on

Indochinese Refugees in January. At that meeting, the chief US delegate said that while Washington insisted on a 12-month moratorium, "mandatory repatriation could be allowed to go forward" after that, provided there were no volunteers and there was adequate screening, counselling and monitoring machinery.

That meeting broke down over the refusal of the US and Vietnam to accept a compromise which would have permitted mandatory repatriations to restart after six months, if voluntary measures were unsuccessful, with rapid screening of new arrivals in Hong Kong, and deportation within six weeks of those who failed to qualify for refugee status. Britain claimed that the disagreements were only over timing, not over mandatory repatriation itself.

Yesterday, however, the US official insisted that Washington had agreed only to look at other ways, such as the creation of holding camps in the Philippines, of helping deal with the question of those who had been "screened out" but were not prepared to return voluntarily. He also made clear Washington's total opposition to emergency measures to which British Government sources said earlier this month they would resort

should there be a massive new influx of boat people.

● HONG KONG: Leading politicians and lawyers yesterday criticized as "just window dressing" a draft Bill of Rights presented by the Hong Kong Government in an effort to calm fears of Chinese repression after 1997 (Jonathan Brajda writes).

The Bill, promised by Britain after last year's bloody military crackdown in China, will enshrine internationally recognized human rights in Hong Kong law and make it possible for local people to defend their rights in the courts. However, critics say the draft has been watered

down under pressure from Peking and does little to ensure human rights will be protected under Chinese rule.

In January China warned it would repeal any Bill which claimed "supremacy" over other local laws, claiming that only the Basic Law, Hong Kong's post-1997 mini-constitution, could have supremacy.

Although the Secretary for Constitutional Affairs, Mr Michael Suen, claimed the Bill could not be amended to conflict with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, he admitted there was nothing to stop China repealing it altogether.

WORLD ROUNDUP

Collor launches economic reform

Rio de Janeiro — President Collor de Mello held his first Cabinet meeting early yesterday and announced a sweeping programme of "national reconstruction" (Mac Margolis writes). The package of measures, many of which must be approved by Congress, are designed to open up the Brazilian economy, long ruled by rigid price controls and restrictions on imports and foreign capital.

Despite earlier denials by Senhor Collor of a price freeze, which he branded "a magic solution used by incompetent governments", the reform also features a 30-day price freeze, followed by staged increases in wages and prices. He also abolished the cruzado, Brazil's inflation-battered currency, and resurrected the cruzeiro. To eradicate inflation, Senhor Collor announced that he will by year's end "totally eliminate the public deficit", which is £18.7 billion.

China attacks press

Peking (Reuters) — China launched a harsh attack on resident foreign journalists yesterday, accusing them of victimizing the Government here and undermining social stability. The criticism, printed by the *People's Daily*, was in response to a protest made to the authorities by journalists against police surveillance of their movements and harassment of their Chinese contacts. The criticism accused unnamed foreign correspondents of "cooking up and spreading rumours" to provide "forces hostile to China" with excuses to attack Peking on human rights grounds.

Working hours cut

Tokyo (Reuters) — The Japanese Government yesterday gave the five-day working week to all state employees. Ministers approved a plan cutting weekly working to 40 hours or five days for all types of public sector staff workers, including prison guards, police officers and hospital staff. The five-day week will be re-assessed in six months.

● Bonn: West Germany's powerful engineering union, IG Metall, has won a 35-hour week in the face of a vigorous advertising campaign by employers to prevent further cuts in working hours (Ian Murray writes).

French convict Astiz

Paris (AP) — An Argentine naval officer was tried in absentia and convicted in a court here yesterday for the abduction and torture of two French nuns killed in Argentina in 1977. Never before, according to legal experts, has someone been convicted abroad for crimes committed in his own country for which he has been granted amnesty. Alfredo Astiz, aged 40, known to rights groups as "the Angel of Death", was sentenced to life imprisonment. One of many amnesties in 1987 by President Alfonsín to consolidate civilian rule, he is unlikely to be extradited.

Plastic cash flow

Sydney (Reuters) — Filthy lucre in Australia will soon be cleaner as grimy paper money is replaced by longer-lasting plastic notes. Australia's Reserve Bank said yesterday that following the successful trial of its new \$Aus 10 (£4.70) note — the world's first plastic banknote — it would move to replace other denominations over the next few years. The polymer substrate \$Aus 10 note, launched in 1988, depicts the British arrival on board ships 202 years ago on one side, and a young Aboriginal man on the other.

Buyer ghost-busted

New York (AP) — When Mr Jeffrey Stambovsky was buying a house, he did not check it for ghosts. Once he found that the house is allegedly haunted by three 18th-century spirits, he decided he did not want it and tried to recover his \$32,500 (£20,000) deposit. But a state judge has ruled that he cannot do so since Miss Helen Ackley, the owner, had no legal duty to tell him that the house was haunted.

Royal visit to Berlin

Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother will celebrate St Patrick's Day in Berlin this afternoon with the traditional presentation of shamrock to the Irish Guards. She arrived in Berlin yesterday afternoon for the start of a three-day visit. It concludes tomorrow with a visit to the Light Infantry, of which she is Colonel-in-Chief, and a meeting with the soldiers' families after church. Security forces are expected to be on maximum alert throughout the visit.

Pro-Iran terrorists threaten Soviet Jewish immigrants

From Christopher Walker, Cairo

Security officials in the Middle East were yesterday treating seriously a threat by a pro-Iranian terrorist group to attack airports, airlines and planes in a drive to halt the massive migration of Soviet Jews to Israel.

The Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine, the pro-Iranian militants holding three of the 17 Western hostages in Lebanon, also declared in its communiqué that its three American hostages would be executed if the American Administration did not meet its demands.

The extremist group, which authenticated its statement with recent photographs of two of the three Americans it is holding, stated: "Our people shall not stand handcuffed in front of this conspiracy."

The threat was issued in a communiqué sent to the independent Beirut daily, *al-Nahar*. "All airports, airlines, planes and offices which will help in their direct transport will be a direct target for us," the terrorists warned.

The flood of Soviet Jews has sparked an uproar in the Arab

world and increased fears that more Palestinians will soon be forced out of the occupied West Bank to make room for the newcomers. Concern escalated when Israel recently imposed military censorship on all reporting of the story from inside Israel, including descriptions of the routes used by the emigrants.

Opening a Security Council debate on alleged Israeli moves to settle Soviet immigrants on occupied land, Mr Alexander Belonogov, the



Mr Carter: Optimistic over the hostages' release.

Soviet Ambassador, said the policy was a threat to human rights, violated international law and promoted "confrontation and extremism".

But he said that to stop Jews from leaving for Israel was not the answer "because it would violate (Soviet) rights and freedoms".

● DAMASCUS: The former US President, Mr Jimmy Carter, said here yesterday that chances seem better than ever for the release of foreign hostages in Lebanon, and that President Assad of Syria repeated vows to help win their freedom (AP reports).

Mr Carter made the comments on the fifth anniversary of the kidnapping in west Beirut of the US journalist, Terry Anderson, aged 42, the longest-held of the 18 Westerners who are missing in Lebanon.

● PARIS: Jean-Paul Kauffmann and Roger Auque, former French hostages, were blindfolded and chained themselves to a tree opposite the Iranian Embassy here to protest at the continued captivity of Terry Anderson.

De Klerk's brother weighs up future

Black rule seen as inevitable

From Gavin Bell, Johannesburg

Mr Willem de Klerk, the elder brother of President de Klerk and a senior political consultant close to the South African Government, believes that black majority rule is inevitable and that attempts to resist it would be futile and irresponsible.

He is also suggesting that the Government abandon its concept of racial groupings as the political foundation of a post-apartheid society.

His views go far beyond current policy, but analysts believe they may presage eventual shifts by Pretoria. Mr de Klerk is a leading member of the Broederbond, the powerful Afrikaner society whose recommendations have been reflected repeatedly in government strategies. He has also acted as a discreet conduit between Pretoria and the African National Congress.

The Government at present rules out a Westminster-style democracy, which would lead inevitably to black majority rule, and advocates power-sharing on the basis of racial group rights. Dr Gerrit Viljoen, the Minister for

Constitutional Development, said recently that the point of departure for future negotiations was that there should be separate voters' rolls for every group.

However Mr de Klerk, writing in an academic review, says whites must be prepared to accept a black majority government and blacks must relinquish Marxist-socialist ideals in favour of democracy based on Western models.

Addressing the anxieties of whites, he says: "The root of all these fears is that a black majority government is inevitable in the future. To resist it would be a battle that the whites have no hope of winning. I am finally convinced of this. To become involved in a prolonged battle against this prospect would be irresponsible towards the country, towards the future of whites, and towards all the people in South Africa."

Mr de Klerk says the phasing out of race groups as political building blocks was essential, and he believes a compromise could be reached. "The (ruling) National Party

is looking critically at its race group classification, while the ANC has indicated they realize that some group rights must be established. Compromise is possible, but it will not be reached soon, and will require very serious negotiation."

Mr de Klerk says white fears of being terrorized by a black dictatorship, with an attendant collapse of the economy and social order, are largely unfounded. "There may be isolated cases... but African government does not mean barbarism. This has not been the experience of whites on our continent. We, the whites, have sufficient grounds for more faith. This kind of fear is an insult to black people."

Anxieties about a transition from Western to African orientations were realistic, but the interests of whites could be safeguarded in a constitution or charter of human rights.

Given the complexities and conflicting ideologies, Mr de Klerk considers it may take at least 10 years to effect the transition to a non-racial democracy.

Prince picks up a not very portable bush 'telephone'

From Alan Hamilton, Lagos

The crate was enormous. Standing at least 4ft high on the red-carpeted floor, it dwarfed the huge tropical fish tank, with its green plastic frog and array of model water-wheels.

When British royalty, this time the Prince and Princess of Wales, visits for the first time in 30 years, Colonel Rapi Kasaki, Governor of Lagos state, is nothing if not generous. The crate was opened to reveal his gift to the royal couple — an exceedingly large "talking drum" and a substantial bronze figure of a man in traditional local dress, an *emabudu* *okiki*.

The Prince gazed in amazement at the drum. "Do you," he asked diffidently, "dance to it or send messages?" It was, he was assured, for sending messages. In a country with a magnificently unpredictable

telephone system, it was clearly a gift of great practicality.

Then it was the Prince's turn. He produced a package so small that it might have been hidden up his sleeve. "We have a very small, very dull, present in return, which I hope will be useful on your desk," the Prince said apologetically, handing over what turned out to be a sterling silver paper-knife with the Prince of Wales' feathers embossed on the handle.

The exchange of gifts over, the Prince admired the Governor's fish tank. "Look at the frog," he remarked to the Princess, pointing at the plastic creature's mouth, which opened and closed in the current created by the toy water-wheels.

After only 24 hours in Nigeria, the Pimms line of the royal yacht Britannia, moored in Lagos harbour, is in danger of submerging as

the vessel is loaded with sturdy official gifts.

President Ibrahim Babangida has given the royal couple a pair of solid bronze Benin leopards, which will look handsome guarding the doorstep of Highgrove. In return the Prince and Princess gave the President a silver tea service of 1930s design, and a carriage clock with the Princess's initial "D" on the face.

Not all the gifts exchanged yesterday were so unashamedly decorative. Visiting Lagos University Teaching Hospital, the Prince handed over a £5,000 incubator as a token of Britain's current big aid package to Nigeria.

Last year's donation of £60 million, the largest British overseas subvention to any country apart from India, is being repeated this year, with a tenth of the total going to provide badly needed drugs for

the country's 12 largest teaching hospitals.

Britain is not the biggest supporter of Nigeria's efforts to achieve economic recovery after the end of its oil boom years; last year the Japanese gave twice as much in direct aid, and are expected to be generous again this year. Britain hopes, however, that economic recovery in a former colony will reopen the continent's largest potential market outside South Africa.

Touring a children's ward, the couple learned that the infant mortality rate in Lagos is between 80 and 90 deaths for every 1,000 live births. In rural Nigeria it is between 100 and 200.

A common disease is sickle-cell anaemia, requiring blood transfusions, yet the university hospital is the only one in Lagos state able to screen the blood for the presence of

the hepatitis and Aids viruses. Doctors say lack of funds also means that immunization programmes for common diseases reach less than half of the child population.

As they drove to the hospital through the shanty towns of Lagos, the royal couple passed a large banner draped from a building by the local authority: "Mushin Local Government appreciates the humanitarian call of the Prince and Princess of Wales." A considerable crowd cheered them on their way.

Whether the environmentally concerned Prince appreciated the hospital's gift to him is another matter. It was a mother and child carved from a little bit of rain forest, a block of finest West African mahogany, which remained in its wrapping paper until after he had gone, to be scooped up by an aide for later examination.

East German politicians learn fast from West

From Ian Murray
Bonn

It is no coincidence that the fledgling political parties of East Germany are basically the creations of their West German counterparts. They have been called "sisters" of the two Western parties, but the relationship is more that of child and parent.

In the idealistic early days of East Germany's "peaceful revolution", the Round Table negotiations made an urgent appeal to Western parties to keep out. They saw, correctly, that the whole campaign would otherwise become a takeover bid which would not stop with political organizations but would end in a merger in which East Germany would be, at best, the junior partner.

The appeal was scarcely heard. The dates of a first free election had hardly been announced before the big party machines moved in from the West. Herr Hans Modrow,

East Germany's communist Prime Minister, tried to introduce an electoral law which would have made such help illegal, but he was on very unfirm ground.

Since the Communist Party infrastructure was all in place, complete with printing presses, secretaries and, most important of all, telephones, the restriction on outsiders which the communists wanted, although convenient, was also hypocritical.

West German pressure forced Herr Modrow to drop the clause before the law went to the Volkskammer and the election battle began.

Both the main parties understand that tomorrow's vote will play an important role in the outcome of the West Germany's own election, now scheduled for December 2.

Herr Helmut Kohl, the West German Chancellor and leader of the Christian Democrats, expecting to gain kudos as the man who made unification possible, hopes he

will also win enough votes for a third term in office.

The Social Democrats, meanwhile, relying on their historic strength in East Germany, hope that a win there will give them the extra boost they need to topple Herr Kohl.

The takeover by the Western parties, coupled with the fact that communists dominated government and gained all the experience for so long, has meant, as well, that no really important political figures have emerged from among the seemingly colourless Eastern party leaders.

The one group of East German politicians to stand out are those who had the courage to form New Forum last autumn and whose pressure did so much to topple the old regime. That this group of intellectuals, artists and idealists has largely been trampled underfoot in the rush for power by the big parties means that it stands little chance of gaining many seats in the freely elected Parliament it did so much to create.

The Social Democrats in the East have, in fact, been the pace-setters in the campaign from the outset, changing their name to match that of the party in the West and falling quickly back on to an organizational structure which had been well established before the last war.

With Herr Willy Brandt, the party's elder statesman and inventor of *Ostpolitik*, drawing and wooing the crowds the

party made all the early running.

The right, which had little chance at all to operate during 40 years of communism, was far more disorganized and needed to import not only the money, but the organization and the slogans. Even so, three separate parties came into being before the Christian Democrats in the West could form them into a cohesive unit.

Herr Kohl finally managed this by creating what he called

the "Alliance for Germany" involving the Eastern Christian Democrats, the German Social Union and Democratic Awakening.

To counter Herr Brandt's charisma and rhetoric, the chancellors then embarked on a series of six blitz campaign sorties from Bonn, when he roused hundreds of thousands of red, black and gold flag waving crowds chanting "Hel-mut, Hel-mut." The main thrust of the Alliance campaign has been to discredit the SPD by linking it

with the widely discredited communist party, using the slogan "Socialism - never again."

Herr Kohl's appearances and this deliberate slight have between them succeeded in giving the Alliance what seems like an even chance of leading the coalition government that is most likely to be formed after the election.

The communists, renamed the Party of Democratic Socialists (PDS), know already that they will not be asked to join the coalition. All the other main parties insist that communists be excluded - which means that Herr Modrow, whose integrity is nowhere doubted and whose experience of government is sorely needed elsewhere, will not serve again, unless he abandons the party he says he still believes in.

Although there are 24 parties or groups putting up lists for the election, the chances of any of the others gaining more than around 5 per cent are minimal. Herr Hans-Dietrich

Genscher, the West German Foreign Minister who has arguably done more than any one to bring about the prospect of reunification, has addressed ecstatic crowds, especially in his home town of Halle. But the chances are slim of the alliance of the three liberal parties which he supports even gaining the present 9 per cent following of his own Free Democrats (FDP) in West Germany.

The Greens - the only other party represented in the Bundestag - are suffering from their reputation of being opposed to reunification. They are trying to compensate by joining with the women's rights movement in a "Green-LiLa" federation, which ought to win at least the 30,000 odd votes that will be needed to take a seat.

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Brandt views the fruit of his Ostpolitik

From Girard Steichen, Wismar, East Germany

In an election largely taken over by politicians from West Germany, Herr Willy Brandt seemed at first to be curiously circumspect, out of step with the high-stakes campaign for German unity.

While Herr Helmut Kohl, the West German Chancellor, swooped into the GDR to deliver impassioned appeals on behalf of conservative candidates, Herr Brandt, the former Social Democratic Chancellor and architect of West German *Ostpolitik*, has more resembled an elder statesman on a lecture tour.

An aide said: "Herr Brandt is in charge of the moral and human dimension."

Herr Brandt, who is the honorary head of the Social Democrats in both Germanies, has largely avoided confrontational politics, preferring instead to focus on the course of events - much of which he shaped - that has brought the two from testy



Herr Brandt: In charge of the human dimension, reconciliation to the verge of reunification.

Yet recent gains by the conservative Alliance for Germany have forced him to join the invective. With the latest polls showing the SPD just trailing the Alliance, Herr Brandt has attacked the Chancellor for tarnishing Germany's image over the Polish border issue and criticized Herr Kohl's favoured method of bringing about early reunification - a constitutional clause allowing states to secede.

Herr Brandt has lamented that the "bad habits" of West German election campaigns have been exported "to the GDR's first free election in nearly six decades." He claims the Alliance has gained support by hinting that an SPD victory could slow economic help from Bonn.

For many East Germans, regardless of their political

persuasion, Herr Brandt has well-nigh unassailable credentials. He is popular and respected as the German statesman who sought and achieved reconciliation with the Soviet Bloc. East Germans acknowledge that without him, the historic talks with the GDR's hardline leadership in Erfurt in 1970, the road to the nation's peaceful revolution last year would have been far more difficult.

East Germans also know that reunification is unthinkable without reconciliation with Poland, the foundation of which was laid by Herr Brandt 20 years ago.

His efforts to normalize East-West relations won him the Nobel Peace Prize in 1971, and did much to erase the legacy of hatred left by the Second World War.

In his public appearances throughout the GDR, he has shunned the patronizing and often-tactless oratory of other West German politicians on the hustings. "Herr Brandt understands that while East Germans want prosperity, they don't want to be lectured down to and told that their experience and identities amount to nothing," says Herr Helmut Langefeld, a baker in Wismar, a Baltic port.

Many East Germans resent what they perceive as high-handed efforts by West German politicians to ram through reunification on their own terms. Earlier this month, in a triumphant re-enactment of his 1970 visit to Erfurt, Herr Brandt told the cheering crowd: "Above all, we must not forget what East Germans have achieved and the unique experiences they have had."

Yet even in the heat of last-minute rallies, Herr Brandt appears to be above the fray. "He has done so much for us over the years" says Frau Ulrike Schreyer, a worker in the Wismar shipyards. "Even if you don't vote SPD you have to admire him."

● EAST BERLIN A survey published yesterday suggested nearly half of all East Germans favor immediate unification, although a third of the electorate would prefer a slower joining of the two states (AP reports).

The latest survey also said that nearly three-quarters of East Germans are more optimistic about the future.

Nearly 50 per cent of those questioned wanted immediate unification with West Germany, and 60 per cent favoured neutrality.

War of words on Berlin's 'Democracy Wall'

CHRIS HARRIS



A voter in the East German elections on Sunday closely studying his countrymen's newly-won political options on posters pasted to the Berlin Wall.

Splits weaken hopes of Bavarian right

From Ian Murray, Nuremberg

With East Germany only a couple of hours away by car, the issues of the Bavarian communal elections tomorrow tend to be subordinate to those of the coming Greater Germany.

While everyone waits for the results coming in from East Berlin, West German politicians will be looking to see what the mood is in rural Catholic Bavaria with equal anxiety.

Nuremberg was the first large town that many of the refugees reached when they began pouring out through Hungary and Austria last September - two months before the main flood started when the Berlin Wall came down. Compared with the grimy towns they came from, it seemed booming and prosperous, set in the lush Bavarian countryside.

Many stayed. They quickly filled the emergency accommodation, saturated the job market and the schools began to be overcrowded. The right-wing Republicans, who had scored up to 20 per cent and more in the European elections last June, felt they were gaining even more ground with their platform for a united Germany in which all the refugees went home.

The fall of the Wall has

changed all that. All West Germany is now struggling to cope with the huge influx of East Germans. The Government is responding with new legislation which will stop their benefits. The opposition Social Democrats want even more restrictions.

Everybody supports German unity and the local Republican election slogan - "We've had it right up to the neck" - has all but been adopted by all the national groups.

Since last June, when they scored 7.3 per cent nationwide, the Republican rating has dropped progressively. Their latest opinion poll rating

is 2.9 per cent - well below the 5 per cent needed to win seats in an election.

So the radical right has lost its way and in Nuremberg, where Hitler's Nazi rallies once roused the nation, the Republicans have fallen apart.

On Thursday Herr Franz Schönhuber, the party leader, had organized his own rally in a beer tent but he cancelled at the last moment. He said the police had refused to give him protection, a clearly ridiculous excuse as a high proportion of his party's membership is known to be in the force or sympathetic to the party's strong stand on law and order. In fact, Nurem-

berg's right-wingers are split. Herr Harald Schumann, who until the end of last November was number two on the Republican list in the town, has left the party because he was disgusted with the "undemocratic" behaviour of Herr Rudolf Heindl, number one on the list.

Both probably hoped at the time the Wall came down that they would win places on the town council, but now that neither of them stands much chance they are calling each other names. "I cannot stand by someone who tramples our rule book and basic rights under foot," Herr Schumann said this week. "I shall not

now be voting Republican." The Christian Social Union, which has long ruled Bavaria by right, has suffered most from the Republican challenge. Five years ago in the communal elections it scored an average 49.1 per cent and it had been worried that defections to the far right could give the balance of power to the extremists.

Its local politicians have countered the challenge by promising policies which leave the Republicans little extra to offer the dissident voter. This harder line has its critics within the party.

Nuremberg is a Social Democratic town and is likely to stay that way. The CSU has chosen a green background for its posters in contrast to the red of socialism and the brown or black of the neo-Nazis.

The Social Democrats are sitting back and watching the bickering on the right with satisfaction. It is relying on these internal quarrels to weaken the traditional hold of the CSU on Bavaria in the state election next October.

In Munich, also a Social Democratic stronghold, the voters will be confronted with a 4 ft by 2 ft "slip" containing the names of the 1,025 candidates for the 80 council seats.

Brittan urges EC integration

By Michael Binyon

Sir Leon Brittan, the EC competition commissioner, said yesterday there were real fears in Europe of German domination, and the EC must therefore continue its integration to ensure that a greater Germany was firmly embedded in a European framework.

He told the Torridge and West Devon Conservative Association that people were afraid that Germany would become not so much a locomotive for the development of

the European Community, as a runaway train "dragging us all in a direction we do not want to go".

He said these fears need not prove justified if things were sensibly handled. "The European Community is the key to managing the transition to the new Europe, both politically and economically. Those who argue that events in Eastern Europe should lead us to slow down the development of the European Community are quite mistaken," he added, in a

clear reference to Mrs Thatcher.

The Community was specifically created to heal the wounds of war and allow nations to harness their energies for the common good, rather than mutual destruction. "The best way for Britain to help Eastern Europe and ally the anxieties felt by some in this country about German unification is to give its full-hearted support for the further development of the Community."

Problem of ethnic Russians still looms over Baltic independence

From Anatoli Lieven
Riga, Latvia

Although the Lithuanian declaration of independence has inspired the Latvian and Estonian nationalists, it has not solved their basic problem: what to do about the huge Russian populations on their territories.

Latvians are only a bare majority in Latvia, and in a minority in Riga, the capital, and the two other biggest cities, and this will severely limit the Latvian Popular Front's prospects in the Supreme Soviet elections beginning tomorrow.

Ainars Baumans, of the Novosti Press Agency in Riga, said: "As usual, the Baltic States are like a train with two passenger carriages and a baggage wagon. We are the baggage and we are pulled along by Lithuania and Estonia."

The Estonian nationalists, who are also going to the polls tomorrow, have the same problem as their Latvian counterparts. Russians make up 31 per cent of the population, with the total of non-Estonians reaching 39 per cent.

Under the Soviet Constitution, a two-thirds majority in a Supreme Soviet is needed for a vote to change a constitu-

tion. Estonian nationalists have been trying to circumvent the possibility that Russian deputies will block the process by calling an "Estonian congress" elected only by citizens of the old Estonian Republic and their descendants.

That body met this week, elected a President and standing committee, and called on the Supreme Soviet and

● The Estonian Government is also facing a rising tide of Russian protest ●

Government to work with the Congress leadership to achieve independence.

In the first round of voting, the fact that radical nationalist candidates will be standing in some constituencies against representatives of the Popular Front, as well as of the Communist Party is likely to deprive the Estonian Popular Front of the sweeping victory achieved by Sajudis in Lithuania. A majority in the new Supreme Soviet in favour of independence is, however, certain.

As the prospect of an Estonian

declaration of independence approaches, the Estonian Government, which supports independence but is nevertheless under attack by the radicals, is also facing a rising tide of Russian protest.

Russian workers in the huge Moscow-controlled factories of Tallinn are being radicalized not just in reaction to Estonian nationalism, but also by the threat of unemployment, which they fear would increase in an independent Estonia.

Interfront is threatening a repetition of last year's general strike by Russian-dominated enterprises if moves towards independence continue. The possibility of violence also cannot be excluded.

Interfront in Latvia is taking a much milder line, apparently because its leaders believe that, in view of the ethnic balance here, such rapid moves towards independence are not likely.

Retired Colonel Igor Lopatin, the chairman of the council of Interfront, told me yesterday that he was not unduly concerned by the Lithuanian declaration and its implications for the other republics. "The Lithuanians have declared independence, but the reality is that it will be many years until this could become real," he said. He added that he

was opposing independence for Latvia not as a Russian nationalist, but because he believes that increasing co-operation between nations represents the present trend of European history. He also argued that full separation from the Soviet Union would be economically catastrophic for Estonia. If, however, a majority in the new Latvian Supreme Soviet declared independence, protest by Interfront would be "purely democratic".

In Estonia the ethnic division is clearer than in Latvia. The small number of Russian intellectuals who support the Popular Front seem to have made little headway in influencing Russian workers although, in Narva, the Russian majority border area, feeling against independence seems rife.

On the other hand, far and away most Estonian members of the Communist Party support independence, and the Government has recently taken the lead in moves to achieve it. This has regained some popularity for the party.

In Latvia, the situation is more complicated. There are several old-style Latvian Communists in the ranks of Interfront, including Mr Alfred Rubiks, the former Mayor of Riga, and Mr

Arnold Clausens, the city's Communist Party chief. On the other side, approximately 10 per cent of Popular Front candidates are Russians.

The fact that a considerable number of Russians do support the Popular Front, or are still too apathetic to vote at all, was shown by the Riga municipal elections. Despite the Russian majority

● Latvia has no alternative but to follow Lithuania on independence ●

in the city, they resulted in an assembly evenly balanced between supporters of Interfront and the Popular Front, leading to a deadlock.

After several weeks, the two sides agreed to appoint Mr Andrei Inkulis, a Communist official with the lukewarm backing of the Popular Front, as Mayor.

There are Communists on both sides of the division in the municipal council, and tomorrow's elections will see Communists on the Interfront ticket and those on the Popular Front ticket

standing against each other, with other party members standing against both.

This has more or less paralysed the party and government leaderships. Although they have clearly expressed their support for independence, only one of the party secretaries turned up to a meeting a fortnight ago of a faction which aims at separating the Latvian party from the Communist Party of the Soviet Union.

Mr Anatoli Gorbunov, Latvia's President, is of Russian origin, but now considers himself Latvian. As one of the leaders of the Communist Party, as well as of the state, he told me yesterday that "Latvia has no alternative but to follow Lithuania towards independence. The speed of the process is however another matter."

He said that a split of the Communist Party from Moscow would have to wait for the Congress called in June, rather than the April meeting called by the breakaway faction.

After this meeting, however, it is likely that the party will lose most of its Latvian members, and in general, after tomorrow's elections, it is not easy to see how the government of Latvia will be carried on.

CHANGING FACE OF EUROPE

The Soviet Congress

Power plays that made a President of Gorbachov

From Mary Dejevsky, Moscow

This week's third session of the full Soviet parliament — the Congress of People's Deputies — will go down as the one which made a former agricultural official from the provinces into the Soviet Union's first democratically elected, American-style President, and started a shift towards parliamentary government.

But the real history of the past week is different. It is a tale of meticulous planning, late-night plotting and ruthless bargaining masterminded by a consummate tactician.

The Congress opened on Monday with a straightforward agenda. It would last two and a half days, vote in favour of the idea of a President, against the idea of direct national presidential

were forgotten. The required majority was in sight.

In the first vote, on the principle of the presidency, the revolt was smaller than feared. The republics who feared for their autonomy were brought around by one set of amendments, the reformists who feared a dictatorship by another.

The clinching argument was produced by the last speaker in the debate — an elderly general of Stalinist persuasion who brandished his warrant card and warned of counter-revolution.

The second vote — on the method of election — encountered unexpectedly forceful opposition from deputies whose constituents had taken too enthusiastically to the notion of one man, one vote.

Without warning, a succession of eminent and respected speakers was suddenly announced. The former dissident, Mr Roy Medvedev, warned of civil war — and delivered the liberal Marxist vote. Mr Gorbachov's Politburo colleague, Mr Aleksandr Yakovlev, argued that the presidency was needed now to unite the country — and delivered the party doubters. The distinguished historian, Professor Dmitri Likhachev, put the decision in its cultural context — and delivered the intellectuals.

Last, and most surprisingly, the radical lawyer, Mr Anatoli Sobchak, spoke passionately against holding direct presidential elections. He delivered a crucial 200 or so votes from the Inter-Regional Parliamentary Group. They included the 50 votes by which Mr Gorbachov won his majority.

But Mr Sobchak's passion came with a price. The radical deputy was called to the platform after the vote to defend himself against what he regarded as an earlier slur. In so doing, Mr Sobchak incriminated the Government in a recent corruption scandal — including the Prime Minister, Mr Nikolai Ryzhkov.

● A nod here, a salute there, signalled the scheming that was afoot ●

Angry and distraught, Mr Ryzhkov asked Mr Gorbachov for an explanation.

Mr Gorbachov professed ignorance of what Mr Sobchak would say, and — lest anyone suspect otherwise — the ideology secretary, Mr Vadim Medvedev, strode the lobby next day saying that the whole episode had been a horrible mistake, everyone involved had "misunderstood".

Mr Ryzhkov probably understood only too well. The next day Mr Gorbachov's inaugural address criticized his Government's performance. An American think-tank had named him as a potential rival for the leadership. His career looks irretrievable.

Coup leader still free

Port Moresby (Reuters) — The drunken police chief who tried to overthrow Papua New Guinea's Government is still free while his former colleagues decide if he should face any charges, a senior policeman said yesterday. Former police commissioner Paul Tohian was sacked on Thursday after he tried to organize the coup following a drinking bout at an armed forces barbecue on Wednesday, and a decision on whether charges will be laid is expected next week.

Denktas goes

Nicosia (AP) — Mr Rauf Denktas, president of the breakaway Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, resigned this week to clear the way for elections on April 22.

Cabinet out

Seoul (AP) — The South Korean Prime Minister, Mr Kang Young-hoon and his 22-member Cabinet resigned to give President Roh a free hand to reorganize his administration.

Taipei fracas

Taipei (Reuters) — Military police dragged 14 leaders of Taiwan's fledgling opposition party kicking and screaming from the presidential palace after officials had denied them a meeting with President Lee.

Space shot

Toulouse (AFP) — The French satellite SPOT-2 was attempting yesterday to photograph the Kabta chemical plant in Libya damaged by fire on Wednesday.

Nepal future

Kathmandu (AP) — King Birendra of Nepal has rejected demands for a multi-party system in his Himalayan kingdom but said there was room for some reforms in the political system.

Prize design

Tokyo (AFP) — An international jury of 11 awarded a London-based Japanese architect, Mr Masayuki Yamanaka, the first prize in a design competition for the Japanese House of Culture in Paris.

Mosque death

Tourcoing, France (Reuters) — The head of the local mosque in this northern French city has committed suicide by setting fire to himself inside the building.

Jump to it

Amsterdam (Reuters) — Dutch police are using a surveillance helicopter to track down two kangaroos on the loose for almost a week in heathland in the southern province of Brabant.

Secret Stasi reports sell like hot cakes

From Anne McElvoy, East Berlin



Eager crowds jostling to buy the published Stasi reports in an East Berlin street yesterday.

In East Berlin, such long queues and so much pushing and shoving usually suggests an unexpected delivery of bananas or car spare parts.

But the prize yesterday was a paperback volume every East German wants to pass on to his children: the commands and reports of the Stasi for 1989 as it tried to suppress the growing dissatisfaction and the peaceful revolution in the country.

Entitled *But I Love You All*, the valedictory words of the Minister for State Security, Herr Erich Mielke, to the East German Parliament before he was taken off to one of the prisons he used to administer, the book has been brought out by the first tiny independent publisher in the East and is drawn from documents found in the Stasi headquarters by the commission set up to dissolve it.

It contains memos to the former Politburo from Herr Mielke, who describes himself as a "progressive force" warning of the "imperialist threats to the state and social order in the GDR". Largely to blame, according to the memos, is the presence of foreign correspondents in the country.

Herr Reinhard Schult, one of the founders of the opposition group New Forum which helped bring about the publication of the documents,

was busy distributing copies to crowds gathered as if by magic in a side-street for the sale. "We did not ask for permission to publish from anyone in case they said no," he said.

Himself a target of the Stasi's attentions for many years, he was enjoying himself yesterday. "We are selling their top-secret files for 11 marks (£3.50) a go," he said gleefully.

With a print run of only 40,000 copies, the book is already a rarity and by yesterday afternoon was changing hands for five times the cover price. "I cannot believe that I have this in my hands," said one young woman, leafing through the pages. "I think I have just grasped for the first time that it is all over."

Perhaps the most surprising aspect of the reports is their accuracy in portraying the dissatisfaction which fermented in East Germany throughout last year. One chapter describing the loss of faith in the party and government could come straight from the discussions of New Forum at the time. Thanks to the extensive network of informers, bugging, and the systematic opening of letters, it probably did.

The names and contacts of all opposition leaders are catalogued.

Romanian models in catwalk strike

From Catherine Adams, Bucharest

More than 200 leading Romanian fashion models went on strike this week. The models walked out halfway through a fashion show after directors banned cameras from the auditorium, claiming that the West wanted to try to steal Romanian ideas.

The models claim that communist bureaucracy is stifling the fashion industry despite the overthrow of the dictator Ceausescu.

Models are demanding professional status for the first time after being regarded as illegal by the former regime. "Nothing has changed and the state won't help us," said 21-year-old Cristina Urda, after her first appearance on the catwalk in a five-day fashion festival open to foreign observers. Models and designers, now back at work, warned of more strikes unless the repression is lifted.

"Our bosses are engineers and technicians with no brains and no artistic sense. They only keep their job because of who they know," said one 21-year-old designer, Miss Elena Zamfirescu.



IT COSTS AS LITTLE AS 20p TO SEND A LETTER EIREMAIL.

A bit of good news on this St. Patrick's Day.

As Eire is an international destination and a member of the European Community, letters up to 20g qualify for the special EEC rate of 20p.

And there's more: letters to the Irish Republic go by air (there's no second class). So you can be sure of quick delivery.



Why wait for a special occasion to write to far off friends or relatives?

A letter would mean a lot to them any time.

And as little as 20p to you.

For details of postal services abroad, pick up a Guide to International Postal Rates from your nearest post office.

TIMES DIARY

SIMON BARNES

As I have noted before in this space, the reason women don't beat men in the conventional sports is not because the events are too tough, but because they are not tough enough. I returned from the Cheltenham Gold Cup on Thursday to find a message from Susan Horne in Boston, America on my answerphone. She wrote, as I remember, for Oxford or Cambridge a few years back, now she was anxious to tell me that Susan Butcher had done it again. Yes, she has won the Iditarod, the sled-dog race across Alaska, for the fourth time in five years. She completed one of the toughest events in the world in 11 days, 1 hour 53 minutes and 23 seconds, beating her own record by 12 minutes. T-shirts were on sale almost immediately, bearing the legend: "Come to Alaska, where men are men and women win the Iditarod."

Meanwhile, Paul Taylor writes to me from Jersey, politely informing me that I miss some of the big sports stories. "I would have thought the performance of the Lichtenstein table-tennis team in Portugal recently would have been worth a mention, especially as one player has a wooden leg." He encloses a cutting from *The Jersey Evening Post* to prove that this is no boast: the unnamed player is also, I learn, the world disabled champion, and obviously rather a superstar. His secret is that he "plays over the table with anti-spin".

The Sports Council, in its role of national gym teacher, has produced a cracking new video as part of a £1 million sponsorship from Midland Bank, in a project aimed at school-leavers. The video features such excitements as track cycling, dry-slope skiing and artificial wall rock-climbing, and it was shot at Calshot Activities Centre in Hampshire. But the centre is now threatened with closure. Hampshire County Council says it can't afford to maintain the place. In fact, it may be demolished. The national motto is "Sport for all (while there's still time)".

Perhaps the transition from symbol of self-contained military might to a setting for *jeux sans frontières* is a healthy development in human history. Anyway, the Great Wall of China ("Sure is a great wall" - Nixon) is to become a racetrack. In September, a motor race will take place along the wall. Lasting 13 days, it will be open to cars and motorcycles, which will travel the 3,000 miles from Shanhaiguan on the Pacific to Jiayuguan.

BARRY FANTONI



'And he never even mentioned poll tax'

The recent postal excitement meant that I missed the Oxford-Cambridge American football match, won by Oxford 60-19. The game is edging towards half-blue status, and inter-college football is soaring at Cambridge, with teams competing under such names as Jesus Saves, Sidney Opera House, Corpus Christi Courgettes, St John's Ambulance and King's Kongs.

Should one feel sorry for managers or for players at a managerial sacking? Perhaps the true victims are the footballers brought up in sport's equivalent of a broken home. What, then, of Julian Brodwin, recently signed for Plymouth Argyle from Barnsley? In a month, he has played under six managers, three at each club.

Most sports are about the pursuit of excellence, but golf is about the pursuit of golf. The idea is to get the ball in the hole not the best way, but the proper way. Clubs must not be this and not be that, and the everlasting debate about whether they should have U-shaped or square grooves has been conducted with Verdi-esque passion. Now in recognition of the increasing popularity of long putters, which are difficult to carry about, the United States Golf Association has approved a collapsible putter. Golfers may now use a telescopic putter - the shaft, not a sight, you understand - provided that it is fully extended. However, the US Equipment Standards Committee turned down a putter that screws together like a pool cue. That, they decided, was adjustable, and therefore did not conform to the rules.

Does anybody actually watch those televised TV and film "awards" ceremonies? The question occurred to me when I had to present one. Not - mind you - that it was I whom they had wanted. Someone really famous had let them down, and a man from the 12th floor at LWT telephoned me asking if I'd stand in for something about gabbling (or whoever) having to be in California and Michael Aspel, the host, wondering (gabbling) take Ricky's place at the Grosvenor and present (gabbling) - something about a West German documentary on the sufferings of Turkish guest-workers in a chemical factory, videotaped upside-down with a camera concealed in a duflie-bag.

"How much?" I said.

"How much?" said the man - and I heard disbelieving female giggles at the other end - "You're joking? It's an incredible honour. No one asks that. Even Tina Turner's doing it for free."

So, mindful of the honour, I turned up at the Grosvenor and went through with it. It was extremely boring. Even I was bored, and I was on the stage. Worse, my secretary said I was the only award-presenter not to have done up the button of my dinner jacket. The tedium was only relieved by being seated at a table with a nice lady who said her name was Virginia. She said she had just come back from Jersey Zoo. Before that she had visited zoos in France, some in Italy (I think) and one in Turkey.

I see that my colleague Ivor Stanbrook takes the view that mothers who go out to work "inflict psychological injury on their children as well as themselves". On that basis we in Britain are in some trouble. We already have one of the highest proportions of working women in Western Europe, and you do not need to be a labour-market expert to see that this trend will continue.

Young school leavers are in short supply and will get scarcer still. Inevitably, employers are looking for other sources for recruitment, and of course married women returners are high on everyone's list. Let us hope that they succeed, for otherwise such professions as nursing will be in real difficulty.

But demography is not the only reason for more women working. More and more women want a career. Half the students in medicine, dentistry and the health services are now women. The latest figures for the legal and accountancy professions show similar situations. A quarter of all the self-employed and nearly a third of entrants to the

Enterprise Allowance Scheme are women.

Unlike Ivor Stanbrook, I believe that we should not turn our back on working women, but should aim to make their lives easier and their careers more fulfilling. That does not mean that I undervalue the contribution of women who do not work outside the home. I entirely agree that bringing up children can be very much a full-time job.

Nevertheless, we should recognize that many women with children want both the income and the stimulation of a job outside the home. The aim of policy should not be to force women down pre-determined routes but to give them choice. Let them decide what is in the best interests of their family, while we knock down the barriers which make that choice

Norman Fowler calls for Budget help for working mothers

Taxing freedom of choice

difficult to exercise.

Job sharing allows women to divide their time between work and home. Flexi-time arrangements allow mothers to plan their working week to fit in with the time demands of their children. Such measures are increasingly used by employers, and rightly so, but we all know there is still a long way to go. Work nurseries and better child-minding arrangements are a sensible next stage.

To achieve these goals will require partnership between employers and government. I accept that employers have the first responsibility here: it is in their interests that the contribution of women be encouraged. I am not attracted by the suggestion of massive new state provision, for I doubt it could ever provide the required flexibility. But if government is not to be

a massive new provider, it should certainly be an enabler. It should encourage and support the provision of new facilities - and there are two steps that should be taken this month in the Budget.

First, the Chancellor should abolish the tax on workplace nurseries. Since April 1983, an employer's subsidy to workplace nurseries has been taxed as a fringe benefit to the employee. It is treated as a perk like a company car, but is taxed even more severely. If an employee's earnings exceed £8,500, he or she must pay tax at the marginal rate on the whole of the benefit.

It is a curious policy, which began only in April 1984. For almost 40 years previously, no one had paid tax on the benefit from a workplace nursery. The policy was then changed in the

belief that tax had always been payable but had simply not been collected. This left us with the anomaly that a motorist who has free parking at his place of work in central London does not pay tax on this undoubtedly benefit, while a mother who makes use of a workplace nursery does.

Second, the Chancellor should make it easier for employers to provide childcare vouchers. Such vouchers can be used for all forms of care, and mean that employers have an alternative to setting up their own nurseries. But the tax position on vouchers is even worse than on nurseries. Under present rules, employees are liable to tax whether or not they earn more than £8,500.

The case for making vouchers tax exempt is also strong. Exemption would share the cost between employers and government, but above all it would

provide flexibility, leaving choice with the mother, for vouchers can be used to pay for child-minding as well as for nurseries. The Government has already taken a big step in this direction with the childcare payments under the Employment Training programme, which offers up to £50 a week for the child care costs of lone parents entering the programme. The irony is that once the mother has found a job, the help is likely to disappear.

Of course I do not claim that these two measures alone would solve the problem. They would, however, give a signal - not the traditional signal to the market, but a more general public signal that the Government takes seriously the contribution that working women can make.

We need to encourage women in their careers not just as a necessary response to a demographic problem, but above all because we should make use of all the ability and skill in our nation.

The author was Secretary of State for Social Services, 1981-1987.

Peter Brimelow

Lingua franca or Babel?

New York

If General de Gaulle's vision of a Europe united to the Urals ever materializes, it will be about the same size as Canada. It will also have some of the same problems.

"If Canada dies, and the country is now gravely ill, the name of Sault Ste Marie, Ontario, should be chiselled on the gravestone," intoned the *Toronto Globe and Mail* columnist Jeffrey Simpson recently.

"Deeply regrettable," said Canada's Prime Minister Brian Mulroney. "Extremely damaging," said Ontario's Premier David Peterson. "Utterly deplorable," said Quebec's Premier Robert Bourassa.

The cause of all this distress among Canada's Great and Good? Sault Ste Marie's council, led by its Italian-Canadian Mayor Joseph Fratesi, had passed a resolution declaring the city's government to be unilingually English. It was rapidly followed by many more, "like a cancer that leaps from one part of a ravaged body to another", as *The Globe's* Simpson picturesquely described it.

To an outsider, this debate is ludicrously unreal. Ontario municipalities do not yet have to provide services in French (Canada's other official language), but they fear they will be compelled to - not unreasonably, in view of this tall-tale establishment outrage and the fact that the spread of Ottawa's bilingualism policy since its introduction on the federal level in 1968, has been well, cancer-like. The provincial government of Ontario has just been induced to declare itself officially bilingual, although the French-speaking proportion of the province's population has fallen to 3.8 per cent, virtually all of whom can also speak English.

Even odder, the provincial government of Quebec, under the same Robert Bourassa, passed legislation last year reaffirming that it is unilingually French. But Canada's establishment didn't seem to find this "deplorable". Or even noteworthy.

Canada's official bilingualism was supposed to be the panacea against the inexorable emergence of Quebec - where almost all of the country's French minority is concentrated - as an independent French-speaking nation-state on the European model. This was the spectre of death itself to Canada's political life, since the left-leaning electoral coalitions that have governed from Ottawa throughout much of this century have depended on cultivating a Quebec block vote.

Official bilingualism has failed, of course: it has not prevented Quebec governments, under both the avowedly separatist *Parti Quebecois* and Bourassa's nominally federalist provincial Liberals, from continuing to carve out increasing institutional autonomy, crushing the province's English-speaking minority in the process. In fact, separatist agitation in Quebec now seems to be in one of its cyclical upswings. Even the

Quebec Liberal party recently let its mask slip and voted to consider "sovereignty" as a policy option.

But Canada's liberal elite has no other solution to offer. So it continues its ritual obeisance to bilingualism, and its reflexive suppression of any English-speaking unrest, even to the point of threatening bilingualism's opponents with prosecution under Canada's equivalent of the Race Relations Act.

Official bilingualism is expensive. But the real impact of the policy, and part of the reason it is still so blindly supported, is what economists would call its public choice consequences: its effect, regardless of its ostensible justification, on the actual distribution of perquisites and power. Official bilingualism is not just a matter of exchanging goodwill "bonjours". It absolutely requires that government institutions be run to a significant extent by people who are themselves bilingual. In a country like Canada, which is not remotely bilingual in practice and where government takes somewhere up to half the gross national product, this amounts to massive social engineering.

According to the 1986 census, only some 16.2 per cent of Canada's 25 million people even claim to be bilingual. This proportion has not altered significantly over the years, and shows no sign of doing so. Just less than two out of three French-speakers and slightly more than nine out of ten English speakers are unilingual. All are in effect second-class citizens, unable to aspire to full careers in the civil service - or, increasingly, to the highest offices in the land.

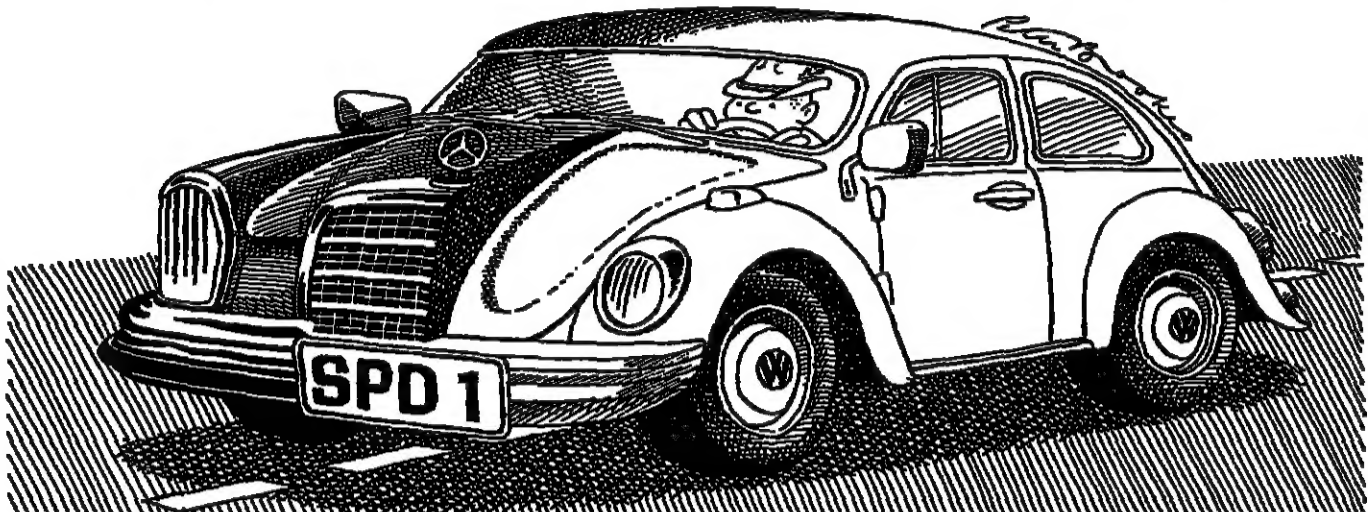
Not coincidentally, the effects of official bilingualism are intensely regressive. The policy reinforces precisely those groups in Canadian society from whom power has been slipping, not least "Central Canada", Ontario and Quebec, whose historical domination of the confederation is threatened by the burgeoning and 99 per cent English-speaking - Canadian West.

What is the moral for Europe? Basically, that the rise of the nation-state was not an accident. What made it necessary for linguistic groups to have their own political structures was the sociological phenomenon of "modernization". This involved new flows of information and power throughout society, and made language an issue. In Quebec until as recently as 1960, the predominantly rural French were in some sense pre-modern and politically passive. Now they are not. Canada's official bilingualism is merely a transitional phase to their independence.

To the extent that the European Community means the creation of linguistic minorities and government by an unrepresentative multilingual elite, this moral will eventually have to be relearned.

The author is a senior editor of *Forbes* magazine and the author of *The Patriot Game: Canada and the Canadian Question*. Revisited.

Danger: Bandwagons in middle of road



As tomorrow's elections approach in East Germany, one slogan stands out on the billboards of Leipzig and other cities: "The future already has a name: SPD". Indeed, social democracy (in West Germany as well as East, to say nothing of Britain) claims to represent a new morality, one which combines the ethics of social welfare with the politics of the freedom of the individual. In the wake of the anti-communist - or, more accurately, anti-socialist - revolution, it offers in East Germany to take a *via media* through the ideological desert.

To its right stand the Christian-Democrat-inspired apostles of the Greater German free market; to its left, the cadres of the revamped Communist Party, barking in their manglers against the West German invasion. How many of nearly 12 million electors in East Germany will choose the SPD's "Third Way" between socialism and capitalism - supposing that such a way exists - is uncertain; Chancellor Kohl and his East German allies are coming up on the rails, puffing and blowing.

Ambivalence is everywhere in the East German SPD's anti-communist, non-communist, and ex-communist ranks. At its recent conference in Leipzig, the mild-looking, middle-of-the-road delegates were addressed from the podium as "Friends and Comrades", just to be on the safe side. In their own estimation, they are the "decent people's party", rejecting "Chicago-style capitalism" on the one hand, and "state socialist oppression" on the other.

They also tell themselves and the electorate that they are the practical, undogmatic party, as well as being their brothers' keepers: individuality and fraternity, a market economy with some state planning, free choice and an egalitarian outcome are agreed to be consistent with each other. This new morality - now on offer throughout Eastern Europe, and coming next in the Soviet Union - is an old mixture.

In East Germany, as elsewhere, it is the product of anxiety and disillusion; anxiety at the encroachment of the "law of the capitalist jungle", disillusion with failed "socialist experimentation". Even leading ex-communists in East Germany

David Selbourne, concluding his series on German reunification, says that tomorrow's elections will be a first sign of how the politics of the left is changing in Europe

have given up on the old fight for a "socialist alternative to West German capitalism".

In common with others in Eastern Europe, they now want a liberal economy in a "social state", in which a social charter guarantees public accountability and private well-being, the state continues to oversee the general economic and technological evolution of the country, and the individual is otherwise left to his own purposes and market devices. Some of this may be hot air, but it is also Vaclav Havel's aspiration for Czechoslovakia, and Labour's for Britain.

However, in East Germany, and West Germany too, something else is fermenting. A burden is being lifted; the Germans, united, are going to be themselves again, for good or ill. An old-fashioned German *persona* - Protestant in the majority, with the accession of the predominantly Protestant East Germans - is once more stirring, genial enough and stolidly hardworking. Addressing delegates at Leipzig, Ibrahim Bohme, the young East German SPD leader, adopted Goethe's lyric ideal of "hard-work and merry-making" as a party slogan.

At the recent synod of the East German Evangelical Church, which played a leading role in last November's upheavals, its chairman, Bishop Leich of Eisenach, praised God for the East Germans' peaceful revolution. "It will be good", he declared in the accents of a latter-day Luther - who, as a boy, lived in Eisenach - "for everybody to participate in such a task, and for everybody to benefit from the fruits of his labour."

The church's role he proclaimed, *ex cathedra*, would be to fight for the social aspects of the social market economy, if

necessary by insisting on restrictions upon its efficiency in order to achieve social ends. But there were also limits on the acceptable uses of state power; never again must the state "lay its hands on the lives of the citizens" and interfere with their "God-given freedom of choice" in the matter of personal self-fulfilment. This was the social democratic programme, theologically justified; or, Marxism displaced by a new Reformation.

The left, in both the Germanies, continues to regard the Protestant Church with suspicion for its equivocal record in the Nazi period; and many SPD supporters, East and West, have nothing to do with any of the churches. But the Protestant social democrats of Saxony, Prussia and the other East German *Länder* are a century-old German prototype, now reborn; and God, with unforeseeable political consequences, reigns once more in the post-Marxist heavens.

This is not, however, Christian socialism. The very word socialism is taboo for most people in Eastern Europe. Rather, the claims of social democracy - in East and West Germany together - are that it alone can deal with the social consequences of the German upheavals: it alone is immune to the seductions of the German national spirit; it alone offers refuge to those exhausted with ideological dogma, right and left; and it alone is sensitive to today's dilemmas over the environment, the limits of welfare, and the finding of a just balance between the powers of the state and the rights of the individual. But to the hard-line Christian Democrats, the advancing SPD looks much as Britain's Labour Party looks to the embattled Tories: like the old socialism in liberal disguise, ever

ready to impede the market in the name of social engineering.

Indeed, as Chancellor Kohl locks horns with the East German SPD - in preparation for a similar battle on West German soil in the December elections - the SPD's political positions are coming under increasingly fierce attack. It is potentially neutralist, say the Christian Democrats, is a Johnny-come-lately to the cause of German reunification ("bureaucrats", Kohl has indicated called the SPD leaders), and is compromised by years of political dalliance with the former East German Communist Party. In addition, the Christian Democratic Union itself claims to espouse the principles of the social market. In its own eyes it is a one-nation German Tory party, sound on trade union rights, on welfare provision and on state investment in elevating public causes.

On the other side of the political fence, the West German SPD is preening itself in the belief that most of the known world is already, or will soon become, social democratic; it is even preparing for the Labour Party, with its "sensible new strategies", to take power alongside it. But to the Christian Democrats, German social democracy, whatever its pretensions, is the wave of the past, not the future.

In particular, the party expects a majority of escapees from Marxism-Leninism to prefer the Christian Democratic version of the ethics of individual freedom. Even if the East Germans were to vote social democracy into office on March 18, it would be a temporary reverse only: practical anxieties about unemployment, pensions, savings and the pace of reunification would have triumphed, not a new politics of socially conscious, anti-capitalist post-Marxism.

Whatever happens, the politics of the left throughout Europe are changing. Class, state and red flag are giving way everywhere to the individual, the social market, the pink rose and doctrinal muddle. At issue is whether a non-socialist left can have any coherent content or real meaning. In the next couple of years, starting tomorrow in East Germany, we shall begin to get the answer.

Making the worst of the best



MATTHEW PARRIS

"Gosh" I said, meaning to make spirited conversation "what a funny sort of holiday! You must be wild about zoos!" Her eyes - momentarily - betrayed anger, which she controlled swiftly, changing the subject. Later I discovered that this was Virginia McKenna and she is apparently very against zoos. She was remarkably polite, in the circumstances, and I resolved to go to the cinema more.

And last week they were at it again. I idly switched on the TV. "And now," said a voice - "we come to a major award. Best video-lighting sequence. This was an incredibly competitive field. From a wealth of talent, the

judges have chosen..." and I switched off again, horrified at the prospect of a camera panning in to someone at a table screaming "Me! Oh my God, I can't believe it!" and all her friends

popping champagne corks and hugging her.

This was near the beginning of the show, for heaven's sake: what would the later awards be for? Best graphics on end-credits? Best dubbed voice and silhouette of a terrorist giving interview to British journalist on the Shankhill Road estate? Best make-up artist's work concealing stubble of Labour MP?

This was a "craft" awards ceremony - no possibility, that is, of either the skills or the personalities meaning anything at all to viewers. But there are the big-name ceremonies too: usually Tina Turner receiving an award, Tina Turner presenting an award,

or Tina Turner singing during the interval. Often, all three.

Tina is followed by the award-recipient who couldn't be with us "at this time" but appears on a large screen, by satellite, and expresses delight completely out of sync with the interviewer on the side of the Atlantic, due to the time-delay in outer space. And the inevitable sister of Michael Jackson who has flown in to receive the award on his behalf, because her brother is at present rejuvenating in a plastic bag.

And of course there are the clips. Fatuous, arbitrary-seeming 30-second clips from whatever performance has won the award. They never work. How could

they? Like those disappointing snippets of a great comedian's or tragic actor's best moments, inserted into obituarial news-reports, the thing is quite flat without the context on which it depended. The celebrity guests at the tables (who have not been watching) applaud.

The clips are followed by speeches. Expressions of surprise, gratitude or humility of staggering insincerity; followed by lists of "those who made it possible", of staggering banality. By this stage such viewers as remain are watching only in the faint hope that something might go horribly wrong - a presenter tripping over a trailing-cable, perhaps, or the AutoCue packing up.

Just one mountain remains unclimbed. Who will be the first to screen the "best TV awards-ceremony" Awards? Tina Turner is available to do the cabaret.



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THE URNS OF EAST GERMANY

East Germans go to the polls tomorrow. For the millions who endured for 40 years in silence, the moment is sweet. The hopes aroused by the autumn revolutions all over central Europe are this spring reaching fulfilment. Only in Germany does apprehension cloud the horizon.

Tomorrow is also the centenary of Bismarck's fall. Chancellor Kohl has set himself the daunting task of restoring a united Germany — the Iron Chancellor's empire, minus the eastern provinces and Alsace-Lorraine — while not breaking faith with Adenauer's westward-looking federal vision.

Against him stood Herr Willy Brandt. The grand old man of Social Democracy was projected by his party far more than Herr Oskar Lafontaine — his party's challenger to Herr Kohl in next December's West German elections — and made an eloquent case for a new Germany as the fount of peace and the fulcrum of European culture.

It was, however, an election fought in the shadow of a flight of skilled labour and impending state bankruptcy. East Germans wanted to know whether their savings would be secured by a generous exchange rate, underwritten by the Bundesbank. Herr Kohl was unequivocal; Herr Lafontaine seemed less sure. It remains to be seen whether Herr Kohl will have to pay a political price among disgruntled West German taxpayers for his generosity to their East German countrymen.

The politicians from Bonn had a field day. During the campaign, indeed, the Chancellor himself became a major factor. Over a million East Germans attended his six big meetings, and his magnetism was such that by the end he needed only to mention German unity to have his audience in ecstasy. Herr Kohl's mid-election about-turn on the Polish border issue seemed to be accepted. So, too, was his insistence that a reunified Germany must remain anchored in NATO.

In the last week, the right-of-centre Alliance for Germany nosed ahead of the reformed Social Democrats in the polls. But in such uncharted electoral territory, and with 24

parties involved, predictions must be even more tentative than usual.

There were limits to the *ad hominem* cut-and-thrust of the campaign. It was remarkable that, after 40 years of state-sponsored "anti-Zionism", no attempt was made to exploit the fact that both the Democratic Socialist (communist) leader, Herr Gregor Gysi, and his Social Democrat counterpart, Herr Ibrahim Bohme, are Jewish. That such restraint cannot be taken for granted was demonstrated in Austria by President Kurt Waldheim's notorious campaign of 1986.

For the new East German parties, it was a first real test. Not all of them passed. Despite generations of collaboration, both Social Democrats and Christian Democrats proved able to rise above their ignominious past. Involvement with the communist regime of one kind or another was a charge that few East German politicians could honestly deny.

It was a shock, even so, when the leader of the CDU's junior partner in the Alliance for Germany, Herr Wolfgang Schnur of Democratic Awakening, turned out to have spied for the secret police. Protesting his innocence, he had to be bullied into resignation by Herr Kohl's lieutenants, only four days before the election. His prompt replacement by a clergyman, Pastor Rainer Eppelmann, with impeccable anti-communist credentials, may reassure voters that the Alliance has not been infiltrated by frauds.

"Beauty is truth, truth beauty," Keats says in the "Ode on a Grecian Urn". Since ancient Athenians filled their urns with pebbles more than two millennia ago, democracy has rarely staged such a triumphant procession as the sequence of elections now commencing. Remembering the falsified results of last May's local elections by Honecker and Krenz, East Germans already know that democracy can be degraded by lies in high office. This first free election since 1933 demonstrated their resolve to force their leaders to tell them the truth, even when it was ugly. Europe need not fear a nation which is honest with itself.

HUMPTY DUMPTY IN JERUSALEM

When political activity resumes in Jerusalem tomorrow after the Sabbath, President Chaim Herzog will start the process of trying to put Humpty Dumpty together again. The Labour Party had been sapping the foundations of the wall for three weeks, and they had their victory on Thursday when five members of the Orthodox Shas Party decided to abstain on a motion of no confidence in the Prime Minister, Mr Yitzhak Shamir.

What will replace the "coalition of national unity"? Who will be at its head? What will be its majority in the Knesset? Observers of the Israeli political scene are wise to remember the old Talmudic saying that after the destruction of the Second Temple, the gift of prophecy was reserved for children and fools.

To say that the fall of Mr Shamir is good for Israel is not to take sides. The loveless embrace in which Israel's two major parties have been locked for the past 15-months has never been convincing, and occasionally it has looked downright meddlesome. The coalition foundered on deep disagreements about how the peace process should be pursued, and it is right that the possibilities should now be explored of putting together an administration that would make a better fist of it.

It is not a law of nature that the new government will be very different from the old. "Two Israelis, three political parties," says the old saw. The Israeli character and temperament will clearly not change. Should they instead try to modify their electoral system? It is highly unlikely that the attempt will be made this time round. The parties which would stand to lose most are the religious parties and it is they who at present hold the balance of power.

Putting together a Knesset majority makes three-dimensional chess seem easy. None of the parties is anything like as monolithic as they are sometimes portrayed — Likud and Labour have both been accurately described as "political supermarkets" — and there is a great deal of fluidity within and between the various

groupings. The five members of the Shas Party who brought Mr Shamir down on Thursday, for instance, decided to abstain on the ground that life might be saved if the peace process went forward and would continue to be lost if it were delayed. The days when the religious parties were automatically assumed to be on the right of the Israeli political spectrum are clearly over, if indeed there ever was such a time.

The smile of jubilation which Mr Peres permitted himself in the Knesset on Thursday may become less broad in the course of the next few weeks, for all that. There was a time when the Labour Party was almost synonymous with the nation, but those palmy days of effortless ascendancy are long past. Mr Peres has been less clever than his Likud rivals at bringing on a new generation. He says he is confident that he can muster a large majority in support of the peace process, but that is by no means certain. Five of the 60 members of the Knesset who voted with him on Thursday are from Arab or communist parties which Labour would find it impossible to accept as partners in government.

If it comes to an election, there are two issues on which there will be no disagreement. Israelis are at one in wishing to see a united Jerusalem as the capital of Israel. Only an eccentric handful would countenance the idea of negotiation with the PLO. Beyond that, the rival manifestos would offer a wide range of incompatible views.

It has not yet been established whether the winds blowing from eastern Europe will have any effect on Israel or what that effect would be. The events of the next few weeks will certainly be closely watched in Washington. There has been some feeling in Jerusalem that the United States has come within an ace of abandoning its role of honest broker in recent weeks. That is something Mr Shamir could easily turn to his advantage. For the next few weeks at least, State Department officials can be expected to be models of circumspection.

LIFE AND DEATH

There is widespread sympathy for Dr Stephen Ludwig, accused of murdering a terminally-ill patient. He was cleared at the Central Criminal Court this week when the prosecution offered no evidence. The experience must for all that have been a terrifying one for a young man at the start of his career.

To some extent he had himself to blame. He allegedly told a nurse "I'm going to send somebody up out there" — then drew one finger across his throat and pointed in the air. The nursing staff reported him, and were praised by the judge for their vigilance. The questions raised by the episode, however, have little to do with a young man's indiscretion. They touch upon the duty of a doctor and how this is interpreted by society. Dramatic advances in medical science have made them more pertinent than ever. They have also made the answers more elusive.

Dr Ludwig gave his patient an injection which might be categorized as high-risk. He did so, however, with the consent of the patient's relatives, who had pleaded with him to ease the poor man's pain. It was a professional decision. He made it in good faith and in what he felt were the best interests of the patient.

The power over life and death is both a privilege and a burden borne by doctors, but the line between the two has become blurred by advances in technology and drugs. The decision on whether to turn off the life support machine of a young person in a coma following an accident is one over which relatives and the doctors have to agonize from time to time. The question of how far one may go in lessening the agony of incurable cancer is no less testing.

It would be difficult to codify such judgements. One must continue, for instance, to oppose the legalization of euthanasia. The campaign to do so was briefly revived four years ago following the revelation that the dying King George V was given drugs to ease his suffering. Even in Holland, where one death in three may now result from euthanasia, the practice remains illegal.

This is not to condemn those occasional tragic cases where it is practised by desperately sick people. The story told in court yesterday of Mrs Karen Taylor who was persuaded by her husband, crippled by multiple sclerosis, to give him a lethal dose of sleeping tablets, clearly deserved the sympathy expressed by the judge.

The sanctity of life remains paramount, however, and any doctor who devalues it does so at his peril. The erosion of that ethic would undermine the confidence between doctors and their patients. It is better to leave the guidelines indistinct than to shift the balance of existing legislation.

Doctors faced by this moral dilemma might, however, feel it sensible to take precautions. To exercise such a judgement without consulting the relatives would clearly be to lay oneself open to an inquiry. It would also be wise to consult a medical colleague. If the issue is to arise more often in future, medical practitioners will clearly feel the need of some protection.

Whether the case against Dr Ludwig should have been brought is more easily answered. The law must be observed, but the circumstances were such that to arraign him on a charge of murder reflects more on the legal than on the medical profession.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Looking abroad for market truths

From Mr Michael Heseltine, MP for Henley (Conservative)
Sir, Your second leader in yesterday's paper (March 14) makes reference to the lessons we can learn from Germany and Japan and misrepresents my views.

The first lesson is proper management of the economy to provide price stability as the essential background for industry and commerce. That is why I argue for an independent central bank and an early membership of the ERM (exchange-rate mechanism).

The second is the consistent high quality of German and Japanese education and training standards. For a century or more we have failed to emulate them. This is now clearly realised and this Government is tackling both.

The third is the need for a strong home market, large enough to sustain competition between companies and enable them to win in world markets. That is why I exposed the defence industries to effective competition and why I strongly supported the Government in the passage of the Single European Act.

The fourth is the vital role of management in pursuing excellence at every level of a company's performance. That must include proper motivation of the work force.

The fifth is the close relationship between owners and managers in German and Japanese companies, which enables them to work for the long term, building up their market share and more readily directing resources to research and development and training.

The sixth is the effect of the fiscal incentives in our society, which encourage the growth of home ownership and the provision of institutional pensions. These are desirable objectives but they explain, in part, the difference in savings patterns between those two countries and our own.

All else fades into insignificance compared to these vital factors. Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL HESELTINE,
House of Commons,
March 15.

Surprise and disquiet over poll tax

From Major General B. C. Gordon Lennox

Sir, The Government seems to have been taken by surprise by the poll tax rates set by many local councils, and the consequent implications for the less well-off. Its surprise probably results, in part at least, from central government's lack of understanding of the detailed functions, strengths and limitations of local government.

Today members of Parliament tend to get involved in local government issues only when problems emerge. For their part, local councillors must often leave much of their council's discussions with central government to committees of officials.

In our increasingly complicated and congested country, the time may have come when the larger local authorities should each have a small but articulate liaison team, whose sole purpose would be to find out and communicate to their councils as it might affect them, the ideas and future proposals of central government, and vice versa.

Yours faithfully,
BERNARD GORDON LENNOX
(Chairman, Sane Planning in the South East),
Hill House,
Eversley, Hampshire,
March 12.

From Mr G. R. R. Treasure
Sir, When historians come to record the events of the last

tumultuous months, will they have to say that men and women in Eastern Europe risked their lives in popular movements to establish democracy, while British mobs, revealing their own understanding of democracy, endangered other people's lives in demonstrations to advertise their refusal to pay a charge, democratically authorised, designed to meet a fraction of the costs of services provided for their community?

Yours faithfully,
GEOFFREY TREASURE,
57 The High Street,
Harrow on the Hill,
Middlesex,
March 11.

From Mr A. E. Lucas
Sir, Homeowners often complain that they pay for local services of which non-homeowners partake but contribute nothing towards. However, nearly all property-owners are receiving or have received mortgage interest relief over many years. It seems that they have not thought to ask what the source is of such a generous subsidy, which is running at the rate of £7 billion a year.

The source is the general fund of taxation, in other words the home of taxpayers' money, and non-homeowners are not exempted from contributing to it.

Yours sincerely,
A. E. LUCAS,
18 Cavendish Road,
Clapham South, SW12,
March 13.

Misuse of footpaths

From Mr Jonathan Cheal
Sir, I act for several farmers and landowners near Bath whose land and paths which are to be reclassified by the local authority into "Boats" (byways open to all traffic) under the strangely worded provisions of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.

The Act allows a "Rupp" (road used as a public path) to be turned into a "Boat" on the sole criterion of historical evidence (often of dubious status) regardless of the desirability or practical suitability of the change.

Some local authorities seem prepared to order this reclassification purely on the word of motor-bike clubs who allege that their members have been using the path

in question for some years as of right. This is flatly contradicted by local people who have lived in the area all their lives and who are keen to testify that the path has never been used by vehicles of any type, and that it is impassable by anything other than a walker or a horse.

If the letter of the Act is to be imposed with such scant regard for reality, and the wishes of country people, it is a great pity, and many old paths will as a result be turned into race tracks, along which walkers and horse riders will be reluctant to venture.

Yours faithfully,
JONATHAN CHEAL,
Thirings & Long (Solicitors),
Midland Bridge Road,
Bath, Avon,
March 14.

'The Satanic Verses'

From Mr Richard Webster

Sir, The Reverend Alan Cooke's rather curt letter (March 2) about *The Satanic Verses* affair should not be allowed to pass without comment. The crucial question is not, as he suggests, whether "the Muslims" God is offended by Salman Rushdie's book", but whether Muslims themselves have been.

Nobody by now can doubt that they have and that their feelings of hurt are deep and entirely authentic.

If, in our Christian or post-Christian society, we find these feelings difficult to understand this is partly because, as Professor Michael Dummett observed recently, intellectuals have sanctified the assumption "that religious believers may properly be affronted, indeed deserve to be affronted".

As an atheist who was brought up as a Methodist, I share neither Professor Dummett's Roman Catholic perspective nor his Christian faith. But I do share his concern at the callousness and insensitivity of the intellectual culture we have created.

It is time we recognised that when we thrust the dagger of our intellectual superiority into the heart of other people's simple faith, we are engaging in a form of intellectual cruelty which is actually a form of real cruelty. If we compound the offence by using obscenity to grease the dagger of insult, we are almost bound to engender an angry response. We should not now seek to renew the insult by publishing *The Satanic Verses* in paperback.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD WEBSTER,
The Orwell Bookshop,
64 High Street,
Southwold, Suffolk.

Harrods findings

From Mr T. H. Richardson

Sir, I doubt very much whether the A1 Fayed lies amounted to any sort of criminal offence. If so, they clearly fell within the province of the Director of Public Prosecutions and would not be one for the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry to deal with.

Mr Ridley's powers of disqualification are governed by the Company Directors Disqualification Act 1986. The grounds upon which action can be taken are set out in the Act and can be paraphrased under the following heads:

1. Certain serious criminal offences.
2. Persistent disregard of the company's rules regarding accounts, etc.
3. The unfitness of a director.

The Act is quite specific on what constitutes unfitness, paraphrased as follows: (a) breaches of duty towards the company itself; (b) misappropriation of funds; (c) the company entering into improper

deals; (d) no proper accounts; (e) misconduct on insolvency.

None of these grounds are available to Mr Ridley and his only fault appears to have been that he was too laconic in explaining matters to the House of Commons.

Yours faithfully,
T. H. RICHARDSON,
Doberman, Richardson, Broady & Horsman (Solicitors),
College Chambers,
92/94 Borough Road,
Middlesbrough, Cleveland,
March 12.

From Dr R. G. L. von Zugbach
Sir, Most correspondence of the past week (March 10, 12, 13, 15) on the Harrods affair demonstrates the primitiveness of thinking about business in this country. Competitive commerce is not a game of cricket.

Entrepreneurs owe a duty to Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (01)782 5046.

Prospect of Nazi war crimes trials

From Lord Shawcross, QC

Sir, If I may adopt his own choice of language, Professor Cameron Watt (March 14) should "certainly know better" than "to break out" into the "pretty dubious rhetoric" which characterizes his letter on war crimes.

I am not clear on the meaning of the second paragraph of his letter. There is no question of a statute of remission for war crimes. If Parliament thought such a statute appropriate there is no legal reason to inhibit it. What is at issue now is rather the opposite, namely legislation permitting, at least 45 years after the event, prosecutions for war crimes in this country which under existing law could not take place.

By 1947-48 all political parties had concluded that the prosecution of war crimes should be brought to an end. Lawyers, led by me as the then Attorney General, had been anxious to bring a far larger number of war criminals to trial — although, as I mentioned the Prime Minister, warning that at the then dilatory rate of progress the trials would "go on till the crack of doom". The fact was that a period was reached when it was generally felt that the trials had become, as the phrase then was, "counter-productive".

Early in 1947 the Foreign Secretary, Ernest Bevin, minuted the War Secretary that "It is desirable that all trials should be completed by March 1st, 1947, or as soon thereafter as possible." It is significant that it was the overseas reconstruction committee of the Cabinet which eventually took the formal decision "that the 1st September, 1948, was to be a firm date for the end of such trials."

The Secretary of State for Commonwealth Relations minuted the Commonwealth countries on July 13, 1948, that

"... in our view punishment of war criminals is more a matter of discouraging future generations than of meting out retribution to every guilty individual. Moreover, in view of future political developments in Germany... we are convinced that it is now necessary to dispose of the past as soon as possible."

Mr Churchill, on October 28, 1948 told Parliament:

"Revenge is of no satisfaction, the most costly and long drawn out; retributive persecution is, of all policies, the most pernicious. Our policy, subject to the exceptional cases I have mentioned, should henceforward be to draw the sponge across the crimes and horrors of the past — hard as that may be — and look, for the sake of all our salvations, towards the future."

The Home Secretary followed

him by saying the sponge had been drawn.

In my own opinion, as a once mere practising lawyer, the prosecutions which are contemplated by the Bill now before Parliament would violate the basic principles of British justice and law. But Professor Cameron Watt would no doubt characterize such a view as "dubious rhetoric". It comes, however, from one who was one of the main protagonists of bringing war criminals to justice after the war.

Yours truly,
HARTLEY SHAWCROSS,
House of Lords,
March 14.

From Sir Frederick Lawton
Sir, Professor D. Cameron Watt accepts, somewhat reluctantly, that practicability may prevent some trials. He seems to think there will be no practical problems once the Director of Public Prosecutions has decided that there is enough evidence to put before a court. Weighing the evidence will provide many more.

The evidence put before the courts is likely to fall into one or other of all of three categories: evidence of confessions, eye-witness accounts of events, coupled with evidence identifying the accused with them, and inferences of guilt reasonably to be drawn from proven or admitted facts, that is circumstantial evidence.

The present-day disquiet over the reliability of confessions and the need for courts to enquire in details and depth into the circumstances in which they were made will be difficult to dispel in respect of any confessions made over 40 years ago on Soviet territory. Eye witness accounts of events a long time ago can be unreliable, evidence of identification notoriously so.

Circumstantial evidence is likely to be the most reliable, provided that the court knows what the circumstances were.

Over 20 years ago in the libel action arising out of the publication of the novel *Exodus*, the plaintiff, Dr Dering, had to admit that he had sterilised a number of men and women but alleged that he had done so under fear for his own life. The jury must have found that issue difficult to decide.

As the trial judge I found giving them a direction on it very difficult indeed. So, in my view, will whoever presides over these proposed trials.

Yours truly,
FREDERICK LAWTON,
1 The Village,
Skelton, York,
March 14.

British Jewry

From Professor Geoffrey Alderman

Sir, The assertion by Dr Kopelowitz, the President of the Board of Deputies of British Jews ("A worthy successor to Jakobovits", March 10), that the Chief Rabbi of the United Hebrew Congregations "is generally recognised both outside the Jewish community, and within it, as the public religious representative of the totality of British Jewry" is in my view nothing more than a piece of wishful thinking.

The constitution of the Board of Deputies stipulates that on religious matters the board must be guided by its two ecclesiastical authorities, the Chief Rabbi of the United Hebrew Congregations and the spiritual head of the Spanish and Portuguese Jews; additionally, it must consult with the ecclesiastical authorities of affiliated congregations which do not recognize the authority of either of these two gentlemen. The

Union of Orthodox Hebrew Congregations, which Dr Kopelowitz mentions, is not even affiliated to the board.

Government departments must certainly do not recognize the Chief Rabbi of the United Hebrew Congregations as representing the totality of British Jewry. For example, a consultative document issued by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food in June, 1989, contained the names of no fewer than nine rabbis whose views the ministry sought, and of three synagogal bodies.

The notion that the Chief Rabbi of the United Hebrew Congregations is somehow the "public religious representative" of British Jewry lacks all substance, and the forthcoming retirement of Rabbi Lord Jakobovits seems to me a most opportune time for it to be finally laid to rest.

Yours faithfully,
GEOFFREY ALDERMAN,
Win's End,
172 Colindale Lane, NW9.

Past services

From Mr Leslie Duckworth

Sir, Mr Randle (March 9) queries the significance of "emeritus" as an academic title. The late Professor Seaborne Davies, a great teacher of law and former Dean of the Faculty of Law at the University of Liverpool, had the title "Professor Emeritus" conferred upon him when he retired.

Thereafter he liked to explain, "for the benefit of those who had not had the advantage of a classical education", that the "E" was derived from the Latin meaning "out", and "emeritus" indicated that it was deservedly so.

Yours faithfully,
LESLIE DUCKWORTH,
4 Innon Road,
Southport, Merseyside.

Gallipoli campaign

From Mr J. A. Mizzi

Sir, Brian James's account (March 9) of the ill-fated Gallipoli campaign revives memories in Malta among the relatives of the many Maltese who fought and died there in the wars and regiments. One of the first Anzacs to fall on April 25 was a Maltese; so was one of the last to die at the evacuation of Cape Helles on January 7.

Maltese officers won two Military Crosses and many were mentioned in despatches. Some 800 Maltese provided the labour battalions with the Anzacs. Malta also looked after 2,500 officers and 55,500 other ranks at the 28 hospitals and convalescent camps for the sick and wounded from the Dardanelles. The dockyard provided all the needs for the large Allied naval force.

All this, it seems, has been forgotten and Malta has not been invited to the ceremonies being held in Turkey on April 25 for the 75th anniversary of the landings.

Yours truly,
J. A. MIZZI,
13 The White House,
Our Lady of Sorrows Street,
St Paul's Bay,
Malta.

Sleeping easy

From Mr D. A. Chance

Sir, Is the duvet (or continental quilt) an invention of the devil? One is either too hot or, without it, too cold.

When confronted with it while staying with friends, should one (a) ask for blankets or (b) adapt oneself — and if so, how?

Yours sincerely,
D. A. CHANCE,
The Grange,
Funtington,
Chichester,
West Sussex,
March 14.

**Compiled by Peter Dear
and Gillian Maxey**

Peter Waymark



Peter Davalle

RADIO 1

PM Stereo and More
News on the ball-room from
 3.30am until 6.30am, then at
 7.30, 8.30, 9.30, 10.30pm
0.00am Gary King 7.00 The
Bruno and Les Greatest Show
8.30 Dave Lee Travis
12.30am Pick of the Pops: Alan
Partridge until 1.30am
 20 charts from 1987, 1972 and
 1963-2.00 **Scorpions** id
 presented by **Samir Mayo 3.30**
Philip Schofield 6.00 Top 40
 with **Bruce Groves 7.00 Anne**
Neeld's Radio 1
8.30 Andy Kershaw 11.00-
2.00am Bob Harris on Sunday

5.55 Weather and News
Headlines

Up 116)
 .38 Towards 5-
 .16 French
 grand notes, was reaching
 its height in the work of
 Lalande, several decades
 before Bach wrote his
 Leipzig cantatas. Cantata:
 Le Fils de l'Ande under
 Weeling Kuyken perform
 Lalande (Super Natural
 Babykino, 1857). Bach
 (Cantatas: Mp 75: Jesu, der
 du meine Seele; No 26: Ach
 wie lieblich, ach wie
 lieblich, ach wie
 lieblich, and 2.00 interval
 Reading

Graham Sheffield. The pianist Artur Rubinstein performs Poulenc:

30 The Sacred Mysteries of Heinrich Böckl: Sonata No 8 in B flat "The Crowning of Jesus with Thorns"; Sonata No 9 in A minor "Jesus Comes His Cross"; Sonata No 10 in G minor "Crucifixion of Jesus"

News Briefing; Weather
6.10 Prelude with Manjoria

4.42 Prolife. Geoff Watts with a portrait of Denis Noble, Professor of Physiology at Oxford, who is fighting against the decline of research in this country

FREQUENCIES: Radio 1: 1253kHz (London area) FLA-104.81; Radio 2: 90.2; Radio 3: 12153kHz; 267m; F: 32-44.6 LBC: 1152kHz(251m); F: 95.8; Greater London Radio: 1458kHz/463m.

ing; Weather
de with Marjorie

Radio 1: 125.3kHz/295m/1089kHz;
FM 104.8; Radio 2: 69.9kHz/4.433m/9
151kHz/ 267m; FM 90.92, 94, 98;
115.2kHz/261m; FM 97.3; Capital
Radio Radio: 1458kHz/205m; FM 94.9

100-44242

BBC1 WALKERS 10.16am The Flying Doctors
Farmers in Wales 12.15pm-12.30pm News and
weather Weather Watchman meets
the weather 12.30pm-1.00pm
3.45pm-3.58pm Hill Pockets: Armagh 4.00-4.19pm
The Royal Family: The Royal Family
1.45pm Deer 10.17pm Newsom Lines Like
Me

BBC2 SCOTLAND 10.00-1.00pm Wales
Northwestern Ireland 12.36pm-1.00pm The
Weekend

ANGLIA An London evening 12.36pm-1.
A Farming Diary 2.00pm Meetings
Whitbread Records: World Records 12.36pm
Spectacular World of Guinness Records 12.36pm
Prisoners: Colt Block H 1.00pm Film: Kaleidoscope
1.00-1.30pm

BORDER An London evening 12.36pm-1.
Jewellery 2.00pm Coronation Sale
2.00-3.30pm The Week 3.30-5.00pm
12.00pm Prisoners: Colt Block H 1.00pm Outfit
2.35pm A Burt & Lew 3.30pm Plot of the Week
4.00 Chart Show

CENTRAL An London evening 12.36pm-1.
Hansard and News 2.00pm Highway
Heavyweight 2.35pm Portly's Duck Hunt 2.55-3.30pm
The Time 12.00pm Prisoners: Colt Block H
Film: Three Men to Kill 2.00pm Sid Time 3.00pm
Chart 3.30-5.00pm Jobbador

CHANNEL An London evening 12.36pm-1.
Garden 2.00pm Kette & Dog 2.30pm Whitbread Road
World Wars Race 2.35-3.25pm Guinness 1.35pm
The Spectator World of Guinness Records 1.35pm
Mysteries of the Polar Seas 3.30pm Country Story
4.00pm

GRANPIAN An London evening 10.45pm-
11.00pm Sunday Series 11.00-11.15pm List
Down Under 2.00pm Country 2.25pm Highway to
3.00pm Battles 4.00pm Chart Licking 4.30-4.58pm
Chart Show 4.58-5.00pm Coast to Coast 5.00pm
2.35pm Burke's Law 3.30pm Plot of the Week
4.00 Chart Show

GUILD An London evening 12.36pm-1.
Granada The Week 2.00pm
12.45-2.00pm Bullington 2.00-2.30pm
1.00pm Prisoners: Colt Block H 1.00pm Outfit
2.35pm Burke's Law 3.30pm Plot of the Week
4.00 Chart Show

HITV WEST Along the Cotswold Way 2.00pm
Spectacular 2.25pm-2.30pm
Prisoners: Colt Block H 1.00pm Gold from Florida 3.00pm
4.00pm-4.00pm Hit Man and Her

HITV WALES 12.30pm-12.30pm Wales on Sun
12.30-12.35pm Farming Wales 2.00-3.30pm

CHAPTER 1

[illegible]

WALKER

0.15 The Color Purple (1985): Whoopi Goldberg in Stephen Spielberg's tale of leadership and cruelty in the deep South

1.55 Mass Maximum Overdrive (1988): Futuristic appliances and vehicles take on the lives of their own and attack their human masters. With Eric Roberts

2.25 The Fly (1986): Jeff Goldblum as a scientist whose experiment goes painfully wrong

3.00 Touch and Go (1987): An ice hockey champion (Michael Keaton) is lugged and finds himself involved in his brother's life. Ends at 5:40am

EUROSPORT

1.00am Euro of Power 7:00 Fun
1.00am Euro Nordic Skiing 10:00 Cycling
1.00 Basketball 1.00am Ski Jumping
1.30m Trax 4:00 Handball: Capital
1.30am Euro Ski Skiing: Men's Parallel
Lumber 6:00 Hockey Show 7:00 Football
1.00 Trans World Sports 10:00 Football
1.00 Ski Jumping 12:00 Skiing

MTV

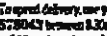
1.00am Ray Cokes 12:30 The Big
1.00am Euro Eurotop 20 12:30am
1.00 MTV 1.00m Punk 5:00 MTV's
1.00am Hit 8:00 XPO 9:30 Kristiane
1.00m MTV Spotlight: New Order
1.00m Euro New Visions: World Beat
1.00 Week in Rock 10:30 Club MTV
1.00 Night Videos

SCREENSPORT

2.30am Argentinean Football 1.30 Pro
2.30am 2.45 Spanish Football 4:45 US Pro
1.00 Ski 7:15 Ice Speedway 8:15 Sport
1.00 France 7:00 Powersports 8:00 US Pro
1.00m Euro 8:30 Basketball 10:00 Ice
1.00m Euro 12:00 Spanish Football 1.45am
1.00m Hockey League 2:30 Basketball 3:00
1.00m Argentinean Football 5:00 Golf 7:00 Golf
1.00 Basketball 12:30am US Pro Ski
1.00m Euro

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BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Forsyth directors quit after boardroom row

The chairman and four other directors of Forsyth, the Australian gold mining company which enjoys a popular investment following in London, have resigned after a boardroom quarrel.

Mr John Morris, chairman, Mr Michael Evans, a joint managing director, Mr Barry Hacker, Mr Chris Kyriakou, and Mr John Byrne have resigned after a "long-running dispute" with its major 28.1 per cent shareholder, Wallha Mining, a subsidiary of First Toronto Mining. Earlier, Wallha announced it was close to finalizing a deal whereby its stake in Forsyth would pass to Pegasus Gold, the US mining company. Forsyth's board will be re-constituted with five non-executive directors and one executive.

BAA traffic rises 8.6%

BAA's seven UK airports handled 47 million passengers in February, an increase of 8.6 per cent on the month in 1989 and the largest monthly rise since March last year. Traffic on domestic and long-haul flights advanced by 10 per cent, and on European scheduled routes by 15 per cent. A depressed market for skiing holidays contributed to a 16 per cent fall in short-haul charters.

Pickens lifts Koito stake

Mr T Boone Pickens, the Texas investor, has increased his stake in Koito Manufacturing Co, the Japanese car parts maker, to 26.4 per cent from 24.6 per cent, Koito said. He was expected to increase his stake to about 30 per cent by registering further shares, it said, adding "We fear that Pickens will resort to more pressure and demands." Toyota holds 19 per cent of Koito, and buys most of its output.

Payout at Brompton

Higher safety and environmental control standards have led to an upsurge in profits at Brompton Holdings, the inspection and testing group, which is paying its first dividend in five years.

Pre-tax profits increased to £1.5 million, up from £240,000 in the year to end-December, after turnover surged from £12.2 million to £52.3 million. The dividend is 2p, on earnings of 8.2p a share against a loss of 3.3p. Brompton recently announced it had won a significant order, through its Inspectorate OIS subsidiary, at the Sizewell B nuclear power station, but would not specify what this would be worth in sales.

Cooper sales earn £8.45m

Frederick Cooper has sold its Lamsom industrial vacuum cleaning and conveying equipment interests to J Bibby for £8.45 million to help eliminate borrowings. Announcement of the disposals accompanied nearly halved group pre-tax profits at £2.3 million for the six months to January, on turnover of £33.6 million, up by £1 million. The interim dividend stays at 1.5p, on earnings per share of 4.2p (8.1p).

Pict is selling profit interest

Pict Petroleum is selling its 30 per cent net profit interest in nine onshore licences in Yorkshire to Tullow Oil. The licences include the Kirby Misperton, Malton and Marishes gas fields and will cost Tullow £315,000 in cash and 300,000 shares, worth £69,000. As a result, Pict will hold 1.5 per cent of Tullow, as a long-term investment. An immediate "beneficial impact" on Pict's balance sheet is expected.

Swedes steering Sealink to cross-Channel luxury

By Martin Waller

The first passengers will today cross from Dover to Calais on the Fantasia, a "floating five-star hotel" that represents the new owner of the Sealink ferry business believe, the future of cross-Channel travel.

Mr Dan Sten Olsson, chairman of Stena, the Swedish shipping line, was in London yesterday to spell out the future of Sealink, which Stena finally won control of this week after a year-long fight.

Among his plans are the building of hotels to serve as the ultimate destination of the cross-Channel traveller, a strong drive into the package holiday trade, the import of ships from Stena's Baltic fleet and a revamping of the existing Sealink fleet.

Mr Olsson, who has adopted the catchphrase, "Travelling for pleasure," believes the opening of the Channel tunnel will mean that an upgrading to luxury standards is the only way the ferries will survive.

Shareholders in Sea Containers this week approved the twin deals that will see Sealink transferred to Stena and the purchase by Mr Robert Montague's Tipbuck of most of its container business.

Stena will, on April 1, be able to hoist its flag on the Sealink fleet, consisting of 14 wholly-owned ferries and five operated in partnership with Arment Navale, offshoot of the French railway, SNCF.

In April, the Fantasia's sister ship, the Fiesta, joins the cross-Channel service, both having been refitted at Bremerhaven. The ships can carry 1,800 passengers each and 700 cars. Alongside their inevitable discos and shops, are what are claimed to be the world's first floating fresh pizza outlets.

Stena already runs hotels in Scandinavia, but these are closely tied to its shipping operations and based at the ports used. Mr Olsson has already identified a site, on the Continent but away from the port, for his first hotel tied to Sealink.

About 30 per cent of Stena's revenue comes from package holidays, and computer systems used in that business will be introduced in Sealink as the first step in a strong drive into this activity. Of its seven million passengers on the Baltic, two million are on holidays arranged by the shipping line.

The ideal is to present the traveller with a package — "car, cabin, meal, hotel, transport, the lot", says Mr Olsson.

Sealink's new owner believes that prices will be similar for ferries and the tunnel. "Neither system will let the other undercut it," says Mr Olsson. The difference will be about an hour's time saving for tunnel-users. But Mr Olsson does not think this will draw passengers from Sealink.



Dan Sten Olsson: spelling out plans for Sealink yesterday

Bluebird Toys in £5m convertible

By Philip Pangalos

Bluebird Toys, the Unilever Securities Market toymaker, is raising £5.93 million for expansion at home and overseas, with particular attention to Europe and the single market, through a rights issue of convertible stock.

Shareholders are to be offered £3 of 12 per cent stock for every four shares.

Details of the issue accompanied news of a slip in pre-

tax profits from £2.25 million to £2.18 million in the year to end-December.

Operating profits jumped by 43.3 per cent to £3.92 million, on group turnover up by 29 per cent at £38.1 million, but interest costs soared from £484,000 to £1.74 million reflecting spending on the Dragon Parc site acquisition in Wales last year.

Although earnings per share slipped from 22.8p to 17.3p, the

dividend is to be maintained at 6.75p.

Mr Torquill Norman, the chairman, said that high interest rates and dull trading conditions led to disappointing repeat orders towards the end of last year, particularly from some of the big stores, although there had been a late rush at Christmas.

Mr Norman said margins had improved and that the present order book is well

ahead of last year, with this year's sales projected at £52 million.

This should be helped by last October's distribution deal with Matal, the American toy company, which should bring in about £3 million of extra sales and add an estimated £400,000 to profits.

Extraordinary costs of £496,000 related to a property reorganization at Merit.

HK Land rises 24% to £119m despite slump

From Lina Yu, Hong Kong

Hongkong Land, the colony's biggest landlord, has announced record earnings for 1989 despite the turmoil in China which slowed the property market last year.

Net profits rose 34 per cent to HK\$1.51 billion (£119 million) on rising rents and almost full occupancy of Hongkong Land's portfolio. Earnings per share to end-December increased 23 per cent to 59.4 cents.

Mr Simon Keswick, chairman, said he was "confident of another year of positive rental reversions and profit growth" because of the shortage of prime office space in Hong Kong's central business district.

Rentals for the group's properties are the highest in the colony. They averaged HK\$31 a sq ft and HK\$51 a sq ft for office and retail space respectively, representing increases over 1988 of 41 per cent and 34 per cent.

Mr Keswick said the commercial property market had held up well and that the group would look for expansion opportunities in Hong Kong and the region.

"With net borrowings at less than 17 per cent of shareholders' funds, Hongkong Land is



Confident: Simon Keswick well placed to capitalize on suitable opportunities as and when they arise. Accordingly, the group will continue to seek investment and development opportunities in Hong Kong and elsewhere in South-east Asia," he said.

Net borrowings totalled HK\$6.67 billion, or 16.9 per cent of shareholders' funds. A surplus of HK\$2.71 billion has been credited to the investment property reserve following a revaluation of the group's portfolio at the end of last year.

A final dividend of 32 cents makes a total of 48 cents, up from 38 cents.

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ARL 200	420 29 38 58 16 20	420 29 38 58 16 20	P & O	550 14 14 14 14 14	550 14 14 14 14 14
ARL 300	420 29 38 58 16 20	420 29 38 58 16 20	P & O	550 14 14 14 14 14	550 14 14 14 14 14
ARL 400	420 29 38 58 16 20	420 29 38 58 16 20	P & O	550 14 14 14 14 14	550 14 14 14 14 14
ARL 500	420 29 38 58 16 20	420 29 38 58 16 20	P & O	550 14 14 14 14 14	550 14 14 14 14 14
ARL 600	420 29 38 58 16 20	420 29 38 58 16 20	P & O	550 14 14 14 14 14	550 14 14 14 14 14
ARL 700	420 29 38 58 16 20	420 29 38 58 16 20	P & O	550 14 14 14 14 14	550 14 14 14 14 14
ARL 800	420 29 38 58 16 20	420 29 38 58 16 20	P & O	550 14 14 14 14 14	550 14 14 14 14 14
ARL 900	420 29 38 58 16 20	420 29 38 58 16 20	P & O	550 14 14 14 14 14	550 14 14 14 14 14
ARL 1000	420 29 38 58 16 20	420 29 38 58 16 20	P & O	550 14 14 14 14 14	550 14 14 14 14 14

Opec to urge curbs by Kuwait

By Our Industrial Staff

Ministers of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries are expected to pressurize Kuwait, a key producer, to curb oil output as prices this week slipped close to Opec's minimum \$18-a-barrel target.

"If the price comes down as expected and if Kuwait doesn't cut there is going to be big disappointment, both in Opec and the market," said Nalco, the energy consultancy based in Geneva.

"Unless there are reductions [in output] the price between now and May will fall between 50 cents and \$1 for light crudes and for heavy more than that."

It estimates demand by consumers for Opec oil in the second quarter will average 21 million barrels per day (bpd) and, allowing for a stockpile of between 500,000 and 1 million bpd, the call on Opec would total 21.5 to 22 million bpd. This compares with Opec output running at close to 24 million bpd.

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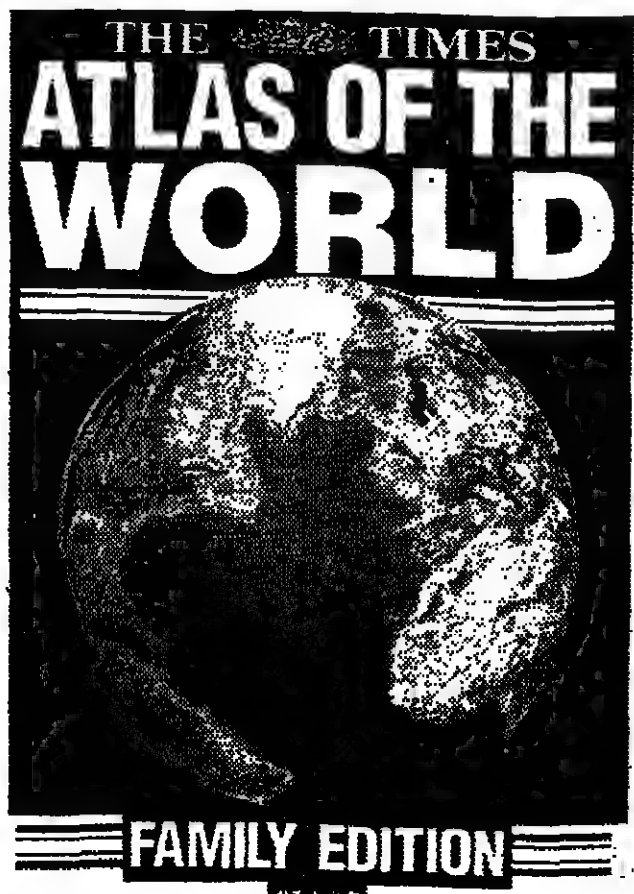
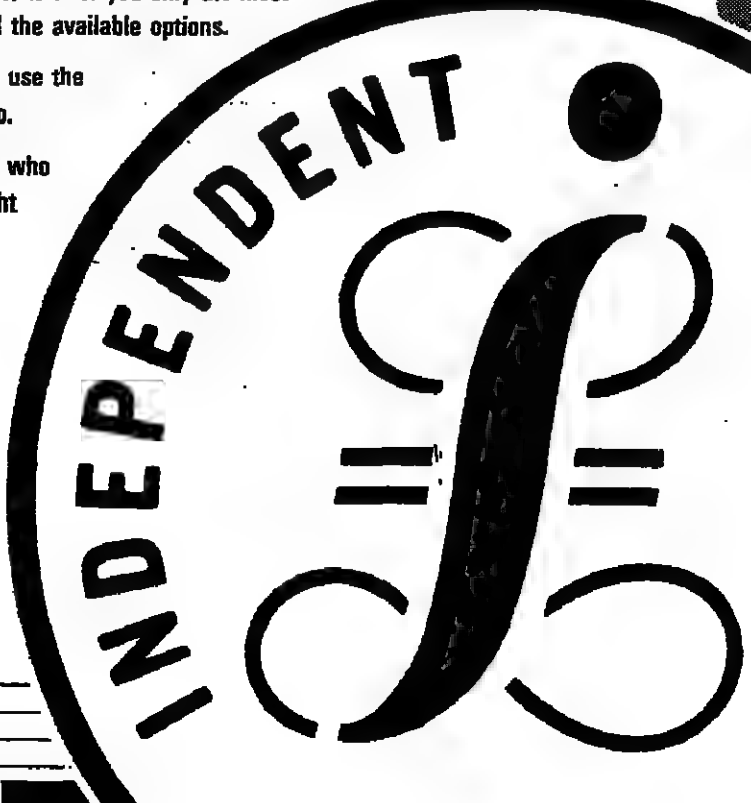
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Autom surge

City alert over stolen share certificates

Sales down

NSM take-up

Gaskell slips

CUB control

Sirdar down

Plan approved

Minoreo payout

EHP sel

Automated Security profits surge 22% to top £23m

By Melinda Wittstock

Strong organic growth in all divisions helped Automated Security Holdings, the electronic security alarms specialist where Mr Michael Ashcroft's ADT holds just under 5 per cent, lift pre-tax profits by 22 per cent to £23.3 million for the year to end-November.

Confident it is "on the threshold of a new growth phase" throughout the world as £140 million worth of acquisitions make their first contributions to profits this year, ASH has increased the total dividend by 57 per cent to 17.9p.

Mr Tom Buffett, the chair-

man, said the acquisitions, partially funded by a £75 million rights issue last July, had only recently been fully integrated into the group, accounting for only £15 million of turnover.

Turnover was up 38 per cent to £114.7 million despite a drop in investment income from £6 million to £1.6 million, while earnings per share climbed 14 per cent to 17.9p.

The security systems division, helped by a three-month contribution from API Alarms, the California business acquired last August for \$105 million, boosted trading

profits by 65 per cent to £18 million on turnover up 41 per cent to £79.1 million.

ASH's loss-prevention operations, aided by development of its electronic article surveillance and closed circuit television activities and the creation of its Automated Loss Prevention Systems, increased profits by 53 per cent to £8.5 million on turnover up 75 per cent to £34 million.

Mr Buffett, who said the company's aggressive expansion programme has transformed it into "a leading international player in the

electronic security market," now plans to expand API Alarms throughout the US and make more acquisitions in Europe in loss prevention, which will this year benefit from recent acquisitions in West Germany, France, Sweden, Norway and Denmark.

With crime essentially recession-proof, Mr Buffett is not worried about a downturn in British profits despite the property market slump.

Turnover in the first three months of the current year is already 75 per cent up on last year, and shows no signs of slowing, he said.

City alert over stolen share certificates

The City of London police have alerted City institutions to watch out for stolen share certificates after the arrest of four men for an alleged £11 million fraud.

Three men appeared in Guildhall justice rooms this week and were granted bail after being charged with conspiring to defraud by using 24 share certificates worth £11.6 million.

They were Mr Lionel Rawlinson, aged 67, of Chelsea; Mr Christopher Hutaia, aged 44, from Richmond, Surrey; and Mr Ziaul Siddiqui, aged 45, from Wembley. Mr Michael Pastides, aged 43, was charged and will appear next week to apply for bail.

Sales down

GR Holdings made £894,861 pre-tax in the six months to December on sales down from £4.6 million to £4.1 million. Last time's £6.4 million pre-tax included £5.6 million from the sale of London office space. The dividend stays at 0.4p on earnings of 3.8p (31.7p).

NSM take-up

Shareholders have taken up 73.2 per cent of the £49 million rights issue by NSM, the open-cast coal miner and concrete floor maker, after Anglo United's decision to accept in relation to its 21.5 per cent stake. The terms are 2-for-7 at 85p. The shares were unchanged at 86p.

Gaskell slips

Gaskell, the carpet group, saw pre-tax profits slip £172,000 to £2.3 million after a near-fourfold rise in the interest bill at £626,000. Sales rose 23 per cent to £37.6 million. A final dividend of 5.5p makes a total of 8.3p (7.5p) on earnings of 27.9p (30p).

CUB control

Carlton and United Breweries, an offshoot of Elders IXL, has secured control of Matilda Bay Brewing with 55 per cent. CUB raised its original 55 cents a share offer to 57 cents a share on Wednesday.

Sirdar down

Pre-tax profits at Sirdar, the textiles group, slipped £658,000 to £2.2 million in the six months to end-December on sales of £28 million (£29.5 million). Interim dividend stays at 1.65p on earnings of 3.57p (4.45p).

Plan approved

Courtaulds' plan to demerge its textiles operations won approval at a shareholders' meeting. It will become effective when dealings in the new shares begin on Monday.

Minorco payout

Minorco, the Luxembourg-based investment group, is raising its interim dividend for the six months ended December by 14.3 per cent to 16 US cents a share, payable May 7. Minorco says this follows the increase in earnings from operations and is in line with its objective of increasing returns to shareholders. Earnings from operations for the half year rose from \$82.7 million to \$98.9 million.

Hornby Group steams ahead with rise of 44%



Engine for growth: Jack Strouger, chairman of Hornby, with Thomas the Tank

Pre-tax profits at Hornby Group, the toys and model railways group, steamed ahead by 44 per cent to £3.47 million in the year to end-December (Philip Pangalos writes).

The group saw a 37 per cent advance in turnover to £32 million, boosted by a strong performance from all its major brands, which include

Scalextric, Hornby Railways and Thomas the Tank.

The Scalextric and Hornby Railways brands are market leaders and account for 70 per cent of the group's sales.

Earnings per share rose by 55 per cent to 28.5p and the final dividend is improved by 43 per cent to 7.5p.

Mr Jack Strouger, the chairman, said: "Demand for all of the group's products

remained very buoyant despite the general uncertainty."

Acquisition of the Fletcher sports boat business, which has more than a third of its business overseas, added £4.4 million to group turnover, with profits in excess of £350,000.

Hornby had a £2.23 million extraordinary credit after a favourable decision on a tax appeal relating to the acquisition of Hornby Hobbies.

Tozer makes agreed bid for Lada cars importer

By Jeremy Andrews

Tozer Kemsley & Millbourn, the car dealer in which Sir Ron Brierley has a 74 per cent holding, is offering £100 million in cash for Western Motor Holdings, the importer of Soviet Lada cars.

Despite Western's warning that the downturn in car sales in the second half was more severe than expected, Mr Reg Heath, TKM's chief executive, is philosophical about the timing of the bid. He said: "You've got to buy at some time."

TKM is offering 789p in cash, or loan notes, for each Western share, nearly three and a half times the price at which the present management bought in to the com-

pany with institutional backing in March, 1987. The bid is being recommended by Western's board and TKM has acceptances for 28.4 per cent of the equity.

Western's shares jumped 93p to 768p on the news - more than 200p higher than on Wednesday before talk of an offer began to circulate.

Despite the slowdown, Western's turnover rose by 21 per cent to £302 million in 1989 and its pre-tax profits were 23 per cent up at £12.4 million.

However, it raised £12.5 million in a rights issue in April and fully diluted earnings per share were only 4 per cent higher at 70.7p in 1989. Although the offer is pitched

at 11 times earnings, compared with TKM's current multiple of 8, Mr Heath does not expect any earnings dilution. The overheads of being a public company, which he put at £1 million a year, would be saved.

TKM is offering cash because its rating was too low for its paper to be used in acquisitions.

One of Western's main attractions for TKM is its half share in the import concession for Proton cars, which are essentially Mitsubishi vehicles made in Malaysia. The merged group will derive two thirds of its profits from import concessions and only a third from car dealerships.

Mannesmann to raise holding in TI Group

By Our City Staff

Mannesmann, the West German gas pipe and machinery manufacturer, is to raise its stake in TI Group from 5 per cent to 9.9 per cent by buying shares in the market.

Mannesmann made its initial investment last September, when TI issued £41 million worth of new shares to it at 525p, an 11 per cent premium to the then market price.

TI said that when Mannesmann first asked its agreement to take a stake, both parties had wanted the move to be

blessed by TI's shareholders. However, it was not necessary to repeat the exercise and TI has no need to raise further cash.

Mannesmann will pick up stock in the market as the opportunity arises, and TI's shares rose by 10p to 460p on the news.

In view of the good co-operation between the two companies since their strategic alliance was formed, TI's board had agreed to Mannesmann's request to raise its stake.

Tunnel group gives Seaboard £2m contract

By Our City Staff

Transmanche-Link, the construction consortium building the Channel tunnel, has awarded a £2 million contract to Seaboard, the electricity distribution company awaiting privatization this autumn, to provide and install the distribution network that will power the Folkestone end of the tunnel.

Seaboard will work in conjunction with the international division of the Electricity Supply Board of Ireland.

Budget prepares the ground for Major move into Number 10



John Major is the Prime Minister's current favourite to succeed her. On Tuesday, he presents his first Budget, on television, in colour and in the knowledge that if his strategy is wrong he chances of winning the next election and his of moving into Number 10 will be vanishingly small.

In a pre-election coup to remove the Prime Minister the alternative would be an established figure, like Sir Geoffrey Howe. In defeat, the Conservative Party would turn to a different style of standard bearer, or mace waver, like Michael Heseltine.

The City is eager to give the Chancellor a fair wind. Sterling has recently taken a sharp knock, mainly because the storming of town halls is not seen abroad as a vote of confidence in the Mrs Thatcher whom foreign capitalists love and admire. Nor is it. On the other hand, the equity market, which reflects the attitudes of people with votes here, may not be strong but it betrays no signs of panic in the face of Labour's 20 per cent lead in the polls and the immediate prospect of the Tories going down in next week's Mid-Staffordshire by-election.

The battle may be lost but the war is far from over, a view I am sure Mr Kinnock at his most sanguine shares. With an election not later than June 1992, Mr Major can reasonably count on two Budgets, next week's and another in March 1991. The first will lay the groundwork for the second.

In essence, he has to be tough enough this year to keep interest rates from rising above 15 per cent. If he succeeds, those rates should start coming down before the end of the year, taking mortgage rates down with them. The relationship between movements in mortgage rates and Conservative electoral ratings - the latter rising when the former fall - is remarkably close.

In his 1991 Budget, as Christopher Johnson, chief economic adviser at Lloyds Bank has calculated, the Chancellor could be in a position to take 2p off income tax, to within contemplating distance of a 20p lower rate. This would help to concentrate and perhaps refocus voters' minds. It might also, of course, drive the opposition parties into a voting pact in a final attempt to overturn the Government. That is next year's speculation.

Tuesday's question is: how tough is tough? The only really tough Budget during Mrs Thatcher's first decade was Sir Geoffrey Howe's 1981 Budget. In the middle of a recession that mild-mannered, courageous man raised taxes by a net £4.25 billion and provoked the famous letter to *The Times* in which 364 economists forecast the longest post-1945 spell of sustained economic growth, coupled with low inflation, they would have been right. For Mr Major to emulate Sir Geoffrey's performance he would

need to raise taxes by an estimated £9 billion.

Budget predictions are notoriously unreliable but I would stake all against his going to such lengths on Tuesday. Although the signals are ambiguous, the regime of high interest rates is slowing the economy and does not need reinforcing with heavy increases in income tax - even if the Cabinet had the stomach for them. Most Tory backbenchers would argue that raising taxes by dropping the rating system for the Community Charge is enough for one year.

For the Budget to be neutral, the Chancellor needs to raise up to £3 billion to offset costs to the Exchequer of introducing separate taxation for married couples and the first full-year of his predecessor's restructuring of National Insurance contributions. Neutrality alone is not enough. A net increase in income taxes of at least £1 billion is needed to sustain the markets' belief in the Government's resolve to hold sterling and bring down inflation.

There are two racing certainties, both affecting those on higher incomes and thus in keeping with the current belief in equality of misery. Nigel Lawson rang the knell of the company car in his 1988 Budget by pointing out that it was taxed on only a quarter of its value. In two Budgets, scale charges have doubled and logic and politics suggest that next week they should go up another 50 per cent to bring them into line with the value of the car. If Mr Major does go the whole way the average tax paid on this particular perk, enjoyed by 1.6 million company car owners, would rise from £500 to £750. The company car would live on as long as it did not also attract National Insurance contributions.

This exemption is part of the case for raising the upper earnings limit for employees' NICs. Abandoning the limit altogether as was done for employers' NICs in 1985 would be harsh. An increase of 10 per cent above next year's indexed level would take the limit to £20,000 - not an unfair figure if Mr Major also resorts to the device of raising income tax by not indexing tax allowances. This was last done in the 1981 Budget. It would cost basic rate taxpayers £54 and married couples another £30. It is regressive: it hits the less well off harder than the better off and may not happen if the political opprobrium is deemed not worth the extra revenue. Where else the Chancellor would have uncovered £1.4 billion I cannot imagine.

Tax increases (relative to an indexed

base) from not indexing income tax allowances, putting up company car scales by 50 per cent and raising the NIC upper earnings limit by 10 per cent would bring in an additional £2.6 billion. This would pay for some tax cuts and in Christopher Johnson's calculations, leave the Chancellor with extra revenue of £1.2 billion, which is about the middle of most forecasters' range. The main tax cuts are independent taxation of husbands and wives (£500 million) and, almost certainly, non-revalorizing of excise duties except petrol (£850 million), to keep the impact on the retail price index down to 0.1 per cent. Another £50 million will be "given away" by not taxing nurseries at factories and offices as a fringe benefit.

So far we are looking at a boring Budget - and I have not even mentioned monetary policy, M0, medium term financial strategy, funding or the exchange rate mechanism of the European Monetary System!

Mr Major cannot afford to colour his Budget grey unless he too is already thinking of spending more time with his family, which I am certain he is not. He needs to address the issue of personal savings, or rather the lack of them. The City and the Wider Share Ownership Council would bless him if he would abolish stamp duty on share transaction and sanctify him if he scrapped capital gains tax. Neither is likely. Nor do I think he will untie CGT rates from income tax rates, coupled by the tidy-minded Nigel Lawson, and cut, by much or a little, the CGT rate. He might, indeed, extend roll-over relief to personal investors in shares, putting them in the same position as managers of unit and investment trusts and personal equity plans.

If Mr Major seriously wants to get away to a flying start as a tax-reforming, savings enthusiast he should take on board Professor Mervyn King's tax-free retirement account scheme. Professor King, of the London School of Economics and a recent recruit to the Court of the Bank of England, has a great instinct for what is right and simple in tax systems. With a TRA anyone could save up to £2,500 a year, where it would either garner interest or it would be invested in securities on the saver's behalf. The money would have to remain invested until the age of 60 when it could be withdrawn without any tax liability at all. Professor King has estimated that private savings through such a scheme would be £5 billion at a cost to the Treasury of £160 million.

The Chancellor has shown little enthusiasm so far. Perhaps the Prime Minister has had a word with him. I hope so. TRAs or something like them would make a compelling centrepiece, raise the party spirit, and address the problem.

UK groups hit by fall in Japanese warrants

By Neil Bennett

British institutions have lost up to \$60 million in Japanese equity warrant trading since the start of the year, according to market estimates, due to the 16 per cent fall in the Nikkei index.

Prices of Japanese equity warrants, one of the most profitable securities to trade in last year, have lost an average 35 per cent of their value since December while demand from institutions has dried up.

This has left the six British houses which make a market in them, Baring Securities, Barclays de Zoete Wedd, Robert Fleming, Kleinwort Benson, Warburg Securities and Cresvale, with estimated losses on their trading books of up to \$5 million in January and possibly more in February. Dealers reported that one house lost \$8 million in the last week of February alone.

Japanese equity warrants provide the right to buy shares in a company at a fixed price. They are issued with bonds but immediately traded separately, with their prices expressed as a percentage of \$5,000.

The market has grown exponentially since its foundation in 1984 and is today worth \$57 billion. Since December, however, the average warrant price has fallen from 37 per cent to 24 per cent, and new issue activity has declined dramatically. Last year the market offered almost guaranteed profits for the institutions.

The new issue market was also booming as warrants consistently traded at a premium to their 17 per cent issue price. While the Japanese securities houses led most issues, the *Gaijin*, or foreign institutions, were allowed to co-manage them. London is the global centre for all 13 Japanese warrant market-makers.

It is illegal to hold a short position in Japan, making it almost impossible for a warrant market maker to hedge against a sharp price fall.

Losses will inevitably hit merchant banking profits this year. Profits on equity warrant trading were a major factor in the 154 per cent pre-tax profit rise to £65.9 million Barings reported for 1989 on Monday.

RMC cuts Dredging stake

By Colin Campbell

RMC Group - which had long been thought to be about to make a bid for British Dredging, is instead to reduce its stake in the company.

The holding will be cut from 24.08 per cent to 8.9 per cent and RMC will offer 2.65 million of its 4.2 million shares on a one-for-five pro-rata basis to British Dredging shareholders at 135p each.

The British Dredging shares which are not taken up by its shareholders and not sold in

the market will be bought back by the company at 130p.

At the same time, RMC is to buy a 46.75 per cent stake in the group's British Dredging Aggregates subsidiary for £3.6 million which, after other transactions between the two, will give birth to a joint venture involving their respective sea-dredged aggregates businesses in the Bristol Channel area.

Newarthill, which owns 28.9 per cent of BD's votes, has undertaken to back the proposals, which need shareholders' approval.

M&G Investment Management, controlling 19.6 per cent of BD, has also indicated its acceptance. BD reports pre-tax profits of £4 million (£3.08 million), and following a property revaluation a net asset value of 158p (89.6p) a share as at December 31.

A final dividend of 4.4p (3.8p) makes 7p (6p). BD shares traded at 140p.

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EHP sells Singer franchise to Canada

By Melinda Wittstock

European Home Products, the Scholl footware and personal care business which was granted shareholders' approval last December to sell its Singer sewing machine franchise, has now gone ahead with the £47 million deal.

It has sold its sewing and consumer durables businesses to International Semi-Tech Microelectronics Inc, a Toronto-registered manufacturer of computer, consumer electronics and Singer sewing machines which is run by Hong Kong Chinese.

International Semi-Tech already owns the rest of Singer's sewing machine manufacturing and distribution operations outside Europe.

The disposal, which resulted in the resignation last month of Mr Doug Ash,

the chairman and chief executive, and Mr Leslie Dingle, the deputy chief executive, came as a result of worsening trading conditions in southern Europe and soaring borrowings.

EHP was forced by its bankers to sell the Singer franchise as well as its Spanish business, and concessions in the Spanish Galerias department stores to avoid breach of a financial covenant governing the proportion of borrowings to pre-tax profits.

A syndicate of banks had advised it that a refusal to go ahead with the disposal would mean re-negotiation of the terms of its bank facilities, which, EHP said, would have had serious consequences for the future of its business, including the ability to pay dividends. EHP, which has already

received £18.4 million cash, plus another £11.2 million by settlement of inter-company debt, said the deal would strengthen its balance sheet.

Mr Neil Franchino, the new chairman and chief executive, said borrowings had been cut from £67 million to £23 million as International Semi-Tech had taken on £26 million of borrowings with the Singer franchise acquired in 12 European countries.

He said the Scholl business was having an "excellent year."

A deferred consideration of £13 million is payable six months after the completion of the deal, with another £4.4 million payable on the finalization of the net tangible assets of the sewing and consumer durables business as at the end of 1989.

Portfolio

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No.	Company	Group	Gain or Loss
1	Low & Bonar	Industrials L-R	
2	Lowland (A)	Industrials	
3	Lowland (B)	Industrials	
4	Lowland (C)	Industrials	
5	Lowland (D)	Industrials	
6	Lowland (E)	Industrials	
7	Lowland (F)	Industrials	
8	Lowland (G)	Industrials	
9	Lowland (H)	Industrials	
10	Lowland (I)	Industrials	
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12	Lowland (K)	Industrials	
13	Lowland (L)	Industrials	
14	Lowland (M)	Industrials	
15	Lowland (N)	Industrials	
16	Lowland (O)	Industrials	
17	Lowland (P)	Industrials	
18	Lowland (Q)	Industrials	
19	Lowland (R)	Industrials	
20	Lowland (S)	Industrials	
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24	Lowland (W)	Industrials	
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26	Lowland (Y)	Industrials	
27	Lowland (Z)	Industrials	
28	Lowland (AA)	Industrials	
29	Lowland (AB)	Industrials	
30	Lowland (AC)	Industrials	
31	Lowland (AD)	Industrials	
32	Lowland (AE)	Industrials	
33	Lowland (AF)	Industrials	
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42	Lowland (AO)	Industrials	
43	Lowland (AP)	Industrials	
44	Lowland (AQ)	Industrials	
45	Lowland (AR)	Industrials	
46	Lowland (AS)	Industrials	
47	Lowland (AT)	Industrials	
48	Lowland (AU)	Industrials	
49	Lowland (AV)	Industrials	
50	Lowland (AW)	Industrials	
51	Lowland (AX)	Industrials	
52	Lowland (AY)	Industrials	
53	Lowland (AZ)	Industrials	
54	Lowland (BA)	Industrials	
55	Lowland (BB)	Industrials	
56	Lowland (BC)	Industrials	
57	Lowland (BD)	Industrials	
58	Lowland (BE)	Industrials	
59	Lowland (BF)	Industrials	
60	Lowland (BG)	Industrials	
61	Lowland (BH)	Industrials	
62	Lowland (BI)	Industrials	
63	Lowland (BJ)	Industrials	
64	Lowland (BK)	Industrials	
65	Lowland (BL)	Industrials	
66	Lowland (BM)	Industrials	
67	Lowland (BN)	Industrials	
68	Lowland (BO)	Industrials	
69	Lowland (BP)	Industrials	
70	Lowland (BQ)	Industrials	
71	Lowland (BR)	Industrials	
72	Lowland (BS)	Industrials	
73	Lowland (BT)	Industrials	
74	Lowland (BU)	Industrials	
75	Lowland (BV)	Industrials	
76	Lowland (BW)	Industrials	
77	Lowland (BX)	Industrials	
78	Lowland (BY)	Industrials	
79	Lowland (BZ)	Industrials	
80	Lowland (CA)	Industrials	
81	Lowland (CB)	Industrials	
82	Lowland (CC)	Industrials	
83	Lowland (CD)	Industrials	
84	Lowland (CE)	Industrials	
85	Lowland (CF)	Industrials	
86	Lowland (CG)	Industrials	
87	Lowland (CH)	Industrials	
88	Lowland (CI)	Industrials	
89	Lowland (CJ)	Industrials	
90	Lowland (CK)	Industrials	
91	Lowland (CL)	Industrials	
92	Lowland (CM)	Industrials	
93	Lowland (CN)	Industrials	
94	Lowland (CO)	Industrials	
95	Lowland (CP)	Industrials	
96	Lowland (CQ)	Industrials	
97	Lowland (CR)	Industrials	
98	Lowland (CS)	Industrials	
99	Lowland (CT)	Industrials	
100	Lowland (CU)	Industrials	

Please take into account any minus signs

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PROPERTY

10000 High Low Company Price Change % P/E

10000 High Low Company Price Change % P/E

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Market firm

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began March 12. Dealings end March 23. Contango day March 26. Settlement day April 2.

Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Prices recorded are at 4 pm. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Where one price is quoted, it is a middle price. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices. (as) denotes Alpha Stocks.

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PROPERTY

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10000 High Low Company Price Change % P/E

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10000 High Low Company Price Change % P/E

INSURANCE

10000 High Low Company Price Change % P/E

LEISURE

10000 High Low Company Price Change % P/E

Mining

10000 High Low Company Price Change % P/E

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10000 High Low Company Price Change % P/E

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Edited by Lindsay Cook

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SATURDAY MARCH 17 1990

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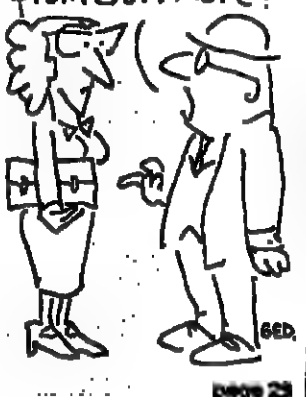
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Peckham joins the ranks of dead societies

The Peckham Building Society which specializes in offering a high return on small sums in instant access accounts is the latest to announce it is to be swallowed up by a larger society. If the merger with the Cheltenham & Gloucester goes ahead at the end of June and other mergers already announced proceed, the number of societies will fall below 100 (Lindsay Cook writes).

The pace of mergers has accelerated and this week Phillips & Drew, the broker, predicted that many more smaller societies will be looking for partners as a result of independent taxation. Money is already being withdrawn from societies which cannot pay interest gross and accounts with instant access are the most vulnerable.

With assets of £68 million, the Peckham will report disappointing results for 1989 later this month showing that its mortgage assets had fallen during 1989 and that profits had increased by just £10,000 during the year from £407,000 to £417,000. It had been badly hit by the collapse of the housing market in London and the South-east.

Mr Nigel Guest, chief executive of the four-branch society, said: "That's why we had to call it a day." He said the Peckham would have found difficulty meeting the new capital adequacy requirements for societies. This would have meant that we would not be able to do the things we wanted to and would have withered or died."

In common with other small societies the Peckham had been barred from offering fixed-rate mortgages, which have been a popular feature of the slower mortgage market as higher interest rates have blunted.

The Peckham, like other societies, have found there is little demand for standard variable-rate mortgages. It has therefore developed loans "for people who have clearly got other debts or had repayment difficulties in the past," said Mr Guest. The Freshstart mortgages cost 1 per cent to 1.5 per cent more than the standard rate, which meant it was to some extent a lender of last resort taking on loans that other institutions would not. Recently it had introduced deferred interest loans.

The Building Societies Commission has expressed concern about the number of low-start, deferred interest and riskier loans being offered by societies. Mr Guest said that only a small number of their loans involved deferred interest.

He said Golden Harvest, the society's other main mortgage product, had been hit by the housing

market. A home income plan, it relies on house values increasing. Investors with the society will receive an 0.75 per cent bonus when the merger takes place and their savings will be transferred to the C&G Gold or postal account.

The Peckham is fortunate that it had something the Cheltenham & Gloucester Building Society wants — a branch in Redhill, Surrey. A spokesman for C&G said it had been trying to obtain a branch there for some time and plans to expand by 10 or 11 branches within the M25 this year. She added: "We are aware of their arrears situation and feel the position is recoverable."

The move, which follows widespread advertising of Japanese equity warrant funds in particular, may lead to the introduction of additional risk warnings stressing volatility.

Concern over the high gearing of warrants, along with other investments like futures and traded options, has encouraged regulators to restrict investment by British funds.

The debate over risk warnings on warrant funds was sparked again this week, after advertising by Nomura International of a new \$100 million warrant fund.

An advertisement in several daily newspapers promised investors "More of the rewards" for "Less of the risks." It went on in smaller print: "Following the recent adverse movements in Japanese Warrants market, certain investors believe that this period may prove to be a rare investment opportunity. Others, however, are understandably reluctant to enter a market which, due to its highly-g geared nature, is also highly risky."

"To enable these investors to participate in the potential rewards, this Nomura Fund has been established with a commitment to reducing the risk of warrant investment." A spokesman for Nomura said the fund is intended for institutions rather than private individuals. It had been decided to advertise in the national press to help promote Nomura's name in Britain.

But a source close to the company admitted that the advertisement had been prepared by a new advertising agency which had little experience of City regulations. It is unlikely that the agency will be used again.

Bank steps in over gross account move

By Lindsay Cook

An account launched by a Bristol broker to pay interest gross was withdrawn yesterday after intervention from the Bank of England and the Financial Intermediaries Managers and Brokers Regulatory Association.

It was feared that there would be a series of such accounts launched by investment salesmen to get round a loophole in the Banking Act.

This could have opened the way to a series of unofficial banks being set up by firms authorized under the Financial Services Act to win deposits from banks and building societies which are barred from paying interest gross.

Whitechurch Securities launched the 350 Account paying 15.1 per cent in preparation for independent taxation, which will create millions more non-taxpayers who will want to earn interest without tax being deducted and may fear putting their savings offshore. The account

relied on an exemption to the Banking Act which allows brokers, financial advisers, accountants and solicitors to receive gross interest on behalf of their clients and pass on the full amount. It is intended for holding money between investments and must be invested for less than a year.

Under the Banking Act an account where the prime purpose is to hold cash must be licensed by the Bank of England. It is up to a financial firm's regulator under the Financial Services Act to decide whether accounts operated by brokers fall within the exemption and can therefore pay interest gross.

Any firm taking deposits without the agreement of its regulator would be in breach of the Banking Act.

Mr Kean Seager, managing director of Whitechurch, said that before he launched the account, which had attracted £300,000 in three weeks, he consulted Fimbra, his regu-

lator, and was told in January that he could go ahead.

After receiving a letter from the Bank on Thursday saying it regarded his account as a "deposit-taking exercise," he consulted Fimbra again and was told the account did not after all meet the exemption test under the Banking Act. Fimbra was unwilling to comment on the matter.

Mr Seager said: "If they had voiced concern in January I would not have gone ahead. I am sure we could fight our corner in a court of law but it is obvious the authorities are less than happy with this loophole so I have decided not to go ahead. I understand they are concerned that less reputable companies could exploit this new account and in the wake of Garston Amhurst who can blame them?"

Investors will be told of its closure and advised to invest in the Bradford & Bingley Building Society's gross-paid Isle of Man accounts.



Called to account: shareholders question Peter Thornton, Lockton's chairman, and his board

Lockton liquidation likely

By Jon Ashworth and Philip Pangalos

Angry shareholders in Lockton Shops, the hi-fi and video retailer which went into receivership last week, sought a full discussion of its affairs at a heated meeting in London yesterday. There were also calls for the formation of a committee to liaise with Mr Peter Dunn, the receiver, who was not present.

It was the second meeting of shareholders in less than a week, after the decision to call in the receivers on March 8. Mr Dunn hopes to recover up to £2.5 million from the sale of assets, including a £1.1 million property in Brentwood, Essex. The company is expected to be placed in voluntary liquidation in the next two weeks. Shareholders are worried

that Lockton Shops may have breached BES regulations by investing too heavily in property. BES companies are not allowed to invest more than 50 per cent of their net assets in land or property during the first three years of trading. If they do, the BES status may fall away, leaving shareholders with the prospect of losing the tax relief on their investments.

A BES specialist said this week it was unlikely the limit had been breached. Land and property is valued at cost when purchased, and any rise in value later will not necessarily breach requirements.

Lockton Shops raised more than £9 million from 1,400 investors when it was launched under the Business

Expansion Scheme in 1987. It traded under the names Wires and Auditions, hoping to compete with chains like Dixons and Lasky's, but has seen the value of stock and property plunge since then. It is thought to have been losing up to £5,000 a day in recent months.

Guinness Mahon, which sponsored Lockton Shops and advised on property purchases, has been heavily criticized for its role in the affair. Mr Patrick Moorsom, Guinness Mahon's vice-chairman, blamed Lockton's troubles on "horrendous" trading conditions.

He said he had been fully aware of the problems at Lockton Shops, but Guinness Mahon was not responsible.

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NatWest seeks more than 1.5 deals a day

The touchscreens in 270 branches of National Westminster Bank, which allow customers to buy and sell shares instantly are to be opened to all investors (writes Lindsay Cook).

The system currently only allows customers of the bank to deal in 250 alpha and beta shares and to instantly receive a contract note will be extended to outsiders later this year, Mr Neil Stapley, the managing director of NatWest stockbrokers, said this week.

The screens have been extended to allcomers for privatizations and the Abbey National flotation last summer but they are currently averaging just 1.5 deals a day per screen.

NatWest, which is sponsoring the CBI wider share ownership task force, is looking at ways of it can deepen share ownership. "We want to extend the service to non-customers. Then anyone who wants to sell will just have to take their share certificate to a branch with a touchscreen. If they agree to deal at the price



Thin trade: Neil Stapley, of NatWest Stockbrokers, checks a dealing screen with an assistant on the terminal, they will receive a stock transfer form to fill in and a contract note. On settlement day the money is paid into their bank account.

This will be of assistance to share sellers who can be tardy in banking the returns on their investments. Mr Stapley said that when the bank checked

four months after the Abbey National flotation there were still more than 20 cheques which had not been presented. It had again noticed with people selling water company shares in December and January that many had not banked their cheques immediately but hung onto them for a consid-

erable time. The minimum fee for buying or selling shares through the touchscreen system is £25. Any NatWest customer can get free advice on their shareholdings by going into any branch of the bank and giving details of their financial circumstances.

Guinness Mahon
sells the DIY way

By Jon Ashworth

Why take out a personal pension through a well-known company when you can arrange it all yourself at half the cost? That is the question Guinness Mahon is asking to sell a do-it-yourself pension scheme which lays out all its charges clearly.

After 10 years as much as a third of the money paid towards a personal pension may have gone in charges. After 20 years, a staggering 88 per cent of contributions could have gone in costs, according to Guinness Mahon. The secret, it says, is to take out a plan which will look after administration, leaving you free to invest your money as you wish.

The new scheme sets out to do this. But it only becomes worthwhile for people who can afford to pay at least £250 a month, or £15,000 as a lump sum, towards retirement. "We expect this to appeal to

wealthy professionals earning over £20,000 a year as well as to partnerships," said Mr Duncan Howorth, managing director of Guinness Mahon's Personal Pension Management.

Nevertheless, the cost may raise a few eyebrows: £1,100 to set it up and £350 annually, rising in line with earnings.

"We issue the equivalent of a policy, and you can nomi-

nate whoever you want to manage the money," said Mr Howorth. "This way, you can buy the funds of a life company you like without the initial costs and high charging structure."

Anyone taking out a personal pension from Standard Life faces a 5 per cent bid/offer spread and a 1 per cent annual management charge. With Personal Pension Management, there would be no bid/offer spread and an annual charge of just 0.18 per cent.

DIY pensions are not new. Groups like Sun Life and Albany Life have plans which allow self-investment, but they usually only appeal to high-earners.

The Guinness Mahon scheme allows investors to try out different providers from year to year without fear of costly penalties. There are no penalties on early retirement or on leaving the scheme.



Howorth: stressing self-help

Poll tax to
hit council
pensions

By Barbara Ellis

A new yearbook has spotlighted a little-known area of local authority finance shortly to be shaken by the poll tax.

A survey of the 96 local authority funds by Pension & Investment Research Consultants found councillors ill-equipped to make investment decisions and often leave the task to professional advisers.

The same few City names advise on or manage money for councils as far apart as Conservative Bexley and Labour Islington.

Performance is about to become much more important to these funds.

The Government does not want authorities to pay for mandatory pension increases in line with inflation out of the poll tax as they did out of the rates, but to fund them from investment income. At the same time it wants funding requirements relaxed.

PIRC Local Authority Pension Fund Yearbook 1990 is published by LCC Communications, price £115.

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FAMILY MONEY

Dawn of independence

Barbara Ellis says the idea of cutting tax bills by moving savings offshore has both benefits and a few pitfalls

Tax avoidance is a favourite British sport, but public eagerness to benefit from next month's change to independent taxation has amazed the financial services world and the Inland Revenue.

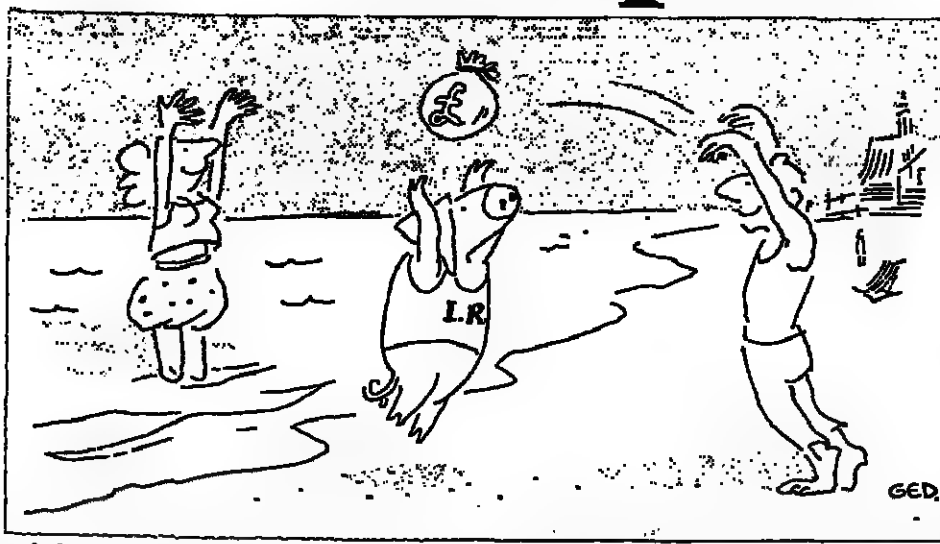
Building Societies, however, are distraught because the change has highlighted an anomaly in the present system. They fear it will cost them up to one-third of their annual deposits unless they are allowed to pay interest gross to non-taxpayers.

In the last year, the Revenue has given away £1 million fees explaining the reformed system of taxing married couples. But it can hardly address the real question on most people's minds: how to exploit the system safely.

Independent taxation opens up tax-saving opportunities because it gives each partner a separate personal allowance of £2,785 to set against their own income, plus a married couple's allowance of £1,590 to the husband.

As thousands of women have realized, the £2,785 personal allowance will more than cover their income, so they will have no tax to pay. But if they invest less than £50,000 with a high street bank or building society, they will lose 22 per cent of their interest in composite rate tax which cannot be reclaimed.

Aversion to needless tax-paying has caused a stampede into offshore accounts, which pay interest gross, and onshore unit trusts, which deduct reclaimable tax. Building



Societies are likely to lose most. Few can afford to set up subsidiaries in the Isle of Man (like the Bradford & Bingley, the Leeds or the Britannia) or in the Channel Islands (like the Abbey National) to compete with the high street banks already there.

The islands do not welcome small savers, and, behind the scenes, the Bank of England and Revenue give stern warnings against promoting offshore accounts in Britain, despite the 11-year freedom from exchange controls.

Many gross are wary of offshore investment, with good reason. Britain's investor

• The Bank and Revenue give stern warnings against promoting offshore accounts in Britain •

protection laws and compensation fund do not stretch to the offshore islands. However, British banks with subsidiaries established there have all given informal undertakings to see these companies through any trouble.

Lloyds, Midland and Royal Bank of Scotland's offshore

high-interest cheque accounts provide cash dispenser cards usable offshore. Lloyds pays 12 per cent on sums of more than £5,000 and has no minimum cheque limit. Midland pays 12.75 per cent on £10,000 to £50,000 and has a minimum cheque limit of £100, while the Royal Bank of Scotland pays 12.47 per cent on more than £2,500 and £13.55 per cent on more than £10,000 with no cheque limit.

Robert Fleming's Manx high-interest bank account, currently paying 13.25 per cent gross, provides a cheque book for deposits of £2,500 and above and has no cheque limit. But offshore rates of up to 14.48 per cent are available on accounts with seven-day notice periods.

At that level, a woman could have just over £19,200 in an account to produce £2,785. However, tax savings can be eroded by probate costs if an offshore account holder dies. On Jersey, money is not released from a single-name account without local probate, which can cost about £300.

Onshore unit trusts quote their yield gross but pay it net of 25 per cent tax. Top rates are about 14.9 per cent, but tax

Revenue, refunds should come through "within a few weeks."

But how quickly the Revenue will be able to handle a greatly increased flow of claims is an open question. A Revenue spokesman said that while independent taxation is expected to need 2,000 extra "work units" in its first three years, the additional work had so far been done by existing staff on overtime. Any future gaps will probably be filled by staff displaced as the Revenue computerizes.

If offshore forays of form filling do not appeal, there is always the Gateshead Co-op, which like other co-operative retail societies can pay interest gross onshore. Gateshead's present rate is 15 per cent.

A couple acting together can legitimately shuffle ownership of income-producing assets between them so as to make full use of these allowances.

Though some brokers will be happy to charge £25 a time for transferring shares between husband and wife, a couple can make their own transfer for about 60p - 40p for a stock transfer form available from law stationers' and 20p postage to the registrar of the company concerned.

At most, a man paying 40 per cent tax could save about £4,220 by transferring shares to his wife if she had no other income. But he would need to hand over shares paying total dividends of nearly £23,500.

The main snag with such transfers is that they must be absolute and unconditional. Trying to give a partner just the dividends while keeping control of the shares would result in a higher tax bill, as the Revenue would treat the money as belonging to the giver. Also it would be extremely difficult to argue for the return of unconditional gifts in the event of a divorce.

• Britain's investor protection laws and compensation fund do not stretch to offshore islands •

abridged tax return with details of income and allowances. The Revenue will only pay out during the same tax year as the dividend is paid if the total tax due back is more than £50. Claims for smaller amounts have to be made in the following tax year, though small claims can be submitted together to get past the £50 minimum. According to the

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In the savings set watch the society you keep

By Kathryn Deane

Bad news for mortgage payers is always good news for savers. But the latest round of building society interest rate rises is giving less to savers than it is taking away from borrowers.

Mortgage rates increase - which are quoted before tax relief - always seem to be greater than the corresponding savings rates hikes, quoted after tax has been deducted.

In this round, savings rates might well be expected to go up by around 0.75 percentage points. But many have gone up much less.

Worst hit have been card and cheque-based accounts, which in many cases have increased only slightly or - like Norwich & Peterbor-

ough's Cash Counter Gold - not at all.

Smaller savers, too, take a knock. Lower bands of "tiered interest" accounts also have increased by less than 0.75 per cent in many cases, and some ordinary share accounts have not gone up at all.

Ordinary share rates can have an effect on larger savers, too. The rates on many high interest accounts are guaranteed to rise at least a certain amount over the society's ordinary share.

Keep the ordinary share rate down, and you do not have to increase your guaranteed premium accounts by much either. Nationwide Anglia, for example, has increased its

Platinum Bond by only 0.15 per cent to 12 per cent. As it carries a 5 per cent premium, the ordinary share rate could not be increased more than half a point, to 7 per cent.

Rather than apply a flat increase across the board, societies have concentrated their fire power on specific accounts, and even tiers of accounts.

Some have received increases of one per cent or more - but many of those selected for this treatment were paying low rates anyway.

Overall, the best you can hope for is an increase of 0.75 per cent in the highest paying accounts. But there are just a few better increases worth noting.

Portsmouth's Capital Account has increased by 1 per cent, and Melton Mowbray's Melton Bond by a massive 1.55 per cent, to the top available rate of 13 per cent.

Two previous high-paying accounts - the three month National Counties and the one-month Cheltenham & Gloucester - have both put on the full 0.75 per cent to stay best buys.

The instant access Buckinghamshire - already a good payer - has put on 0.85 per cent on the top tier.

BEST BUILDING SOCIETY BUYS

Fund	Rate %	Net	CAR %	Withdrawal terms	Min Investment
Melton Mowbray Mtm Bond	12.60	13.00	13.00	2 year term	25,000
Portsmouth Capital Reserve	12.50	12.75	12.75	1 year term	13,000
Bradford & Bingley One	12.50	12.99	12.99	Matures 1.3.91	10,000
National Counties 90 Day	12.75	12.75	12.75	3 mth notice	75,000
Homebase Special Shares	12.00	12.36	12.36	2 mth notice	40,000
Teachers Master Share	12.50	12.30	12.30	Instant access	40,000
Birmingham Mids Orion	12.25	12.25	12.25	2 mth notice	2,500
Cheltenham/Glos London Share	12.25	12.25	12.25	1 mth notice	2,500
Bucks Added Advantage	11.85	12.20	12.20	Instant access	25,000
Chelsea Classic Account	11.75	11.75	11.75	Instant access	10,000
Chelsea Classic Account	11.50	11.50	11.50	Instant access	5,000
Chelsea Classic Account	11.25	11.25	11.25	Instant access	2,500

* Restricted withdrawals during the term are available. * You cannot add to the account. * Over £2,500 available only by post. * Available only by post. Compiled by Building Society Choice

BRIEFINGS

TSB prints your worth - instantly

TSB customers will soon be able to obtain printed statements from automated teller machines 24 hours a day. The new service will provide up-to-the-minute information, including details of any cash withdrawals made second carrier. The service should be available at most of the bank's 1,200 cash machines by October.

Northern Rock Building Society is paying interest of 12.12 per cent on £25,000 or more placed in its interest-bearing current account. The rate, which works out at 11.5 per cent monthly, is one of the best available on an instant access account. The society's Capital Growth Bond, a two-year limited issue, pays net interest of 12.5 per cent on £10,000.

A low-start mortgage which does not roll up interest has been launched by the Norwich and Peterborough building society. Loans of up to 100 per cent are possible through the plan, Easy Start, once applicants have deposited at least 5 per cent of the property's value in an account with the society. An amount is drawn from the account to subsidize the mortgage each month, keeping costs down in the early years.

Yorkshire Bank has increased rates on all its savings

accounts, but has also raised the level of charges for investors who fall into the red. Cashmaster, the instant-access savings account, pays net interest of 7.25 per cent on balances of £500 or more. The quarterly charge on Paymaster, the current account, has been raised from £3 to £4 on balances below £100.

Chase Manhattan VISA cardholders will be able to draw money from Midland Bank cash machines following a link-up between the two banks. Similar links with Barclays and the Bank of

The first credit card in Britain to take a local community to heart was launched this week by Bank of Credit and Commerce International. The Welsh Card, part of the MasterCard network, will donate funds to the Croyd Community Chest each time a purchase is made. It charges interest at 22.4 per cent with a £6 annual fee, or 25.3 per cent with no fee. BCCI has issued 14 affinity cards in England on behalf of charities and other organisations.

Chase Manhattan VISA cardholders will be able to draw money from Midland Bank cash machines following a link-up between the two banks. Similar links with Barclays and the Bank of

Choose the wrong pension plan and you could end up with a small fortune.

In a survey carried out recently by a leading financial magazine, an Equitable Life with-profits personal pension was found to be significantly more profitable than most. For example, had you retired on 1 April 1989 aged 65, you would have been 48% better off with one of our 20 year with-profits regular contribution personal pensions compared with the worst performer.*

But this is just one example of our success. More important is our track record of consistently excellent investment performance.

Since 1974 the authoritative financial journal Planned Savings has surveyed the performance of regular contribution with-profits personal pension plans over 10, 15 and 20 year terms. Out of 29 tables published The Equitable Life has been top in 14 and 2nd in a further 7.

What is responsible for this happy state of affairs?

The Equitable



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Worst Company



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(Personal pension fund from 20 year with-profits policy, annual contribution of £500 as published by Planned Savings, July 1989. Figures refer to a self-employed man aged 65 retiring 1 April 1989. Source: Planned Savings, July 1989.)

One reason is that we keep a tighter rein on costs than any of our rivals. Indeed, our ratio of expenses to premium income is the lowest of any life assurance company in Britain according to Money Management magazine (November 1989).

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Careful management and administration, of course, mean nothing unless the money itself is expertly deployed on your behalf. Fortunately, we have one of the finest investment teams in

Britain, currently managing funds of over five billion pounds.

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*Planned Savings Survey of regular contribution, 20 year, with-profits personal pensions - July 1989



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FAMILY MONEY

French banks woo homeowners

By Barbara Ellis

French banks are expecting 100,000 Britons to buy second homes in France over the next four years and a dozen are already scrapping with the likes of Abbey National, Barclays and Midland banks for the mortgage business this migration will involve.

This week two more joined the fray, launching packages of loans and advice, some of it seemingly aimed at fairly low-IQ customers.

"Do learn to speak some French," is Banque Nationale

de Paris' plaintive opening to a list of "do's and don'ts" which also runs to "Do not expect it to be just like it is at home."

Step-by-step differences between English and French homebuying are usefully outlined by Capital Home Loans, jointly owned by Société Générale and Credit Foncier.

CHL insists that customers take at least £650 worth of advice from solicitors De Pinna Scorers & John Venn — primarily to avoid problems with French inheritance law,

which passes property direct to children instead of to a surviving husband or wife if there is no French will.

BNP's package provides for advice from accountants Moore Stephens, but this is optional, and no minimum fee is set.

CHL will be making loans of at least £25,000 or Fr 250,000, running for terms of five to 25 years, at an interest rate of 0.75 per cent above the London Inter Bank Offered Rate during the first year and

1.35 per cent above in subsequent years.

M. Pierre Gervasi, the deputy general manager, explained that unlike most other lenders, CHL would be offering loans arranged and administered in Britain, but secured on French property, instead of giving second mortgages on customers' homes.

The percentage of valuation covered will range from 65 per cent, if the loan carries a franc/sterling switching facility and is linked to an endowment or a pension, to 85 per cent if the mortgage is in francs and uses the repayment method.

BNP is marketing five types of loan with terms of between two and 25 years. Three are effectively UK second mortgages, repayable via endowment or pension, on up to 95 per cent of the property price and with a minimum of £15,000.

The interest rate is Libor plus 2 per cent on the loans, which can be either in sterling or in francs.

BNP will also lend in France on French property, either at a variable rate currently 9.95 per cent or a fixed rate of 11.7 per cent. These are both repayment mortgages and the fixed-rate loan covers only 60 per cent of the valuation, with a minimum of Fr700,000 (£83,000).

Jon Ashworth looks at some of the schemes chasing £400m

BES issues poised for take-off at the airport

Airports dominate the Business Expansion Schemes on offer, with Heathrow, Gatwick and Stansted the focus of a season which has seen many issues chasing little money.

Taken together, BES issues are seeking more than £400 million in funds. Only £70 million has been raised so far, and the chances of raising more than £100 million before the end of the financial year look increasingly slim.

It has become traditional for investors to leave their money in the bank until the last minute, and high interest rates make a late rush even more likely this year.

Mr John Spiers, editor of *BES Investment*, said subscriptions were 75 per cent down on last year. "I still get the feeling that people are holding back until the end, but it seems unlikely that more than another £100 million will be raised before the season ends."

Mr Spiers said weak economic conditions had made investors more cautious.

The winners so far include Airways Homes, whose chief



Milking their assets: one BES issue hopes to raise £250,000 towards a herd of Friesian cows

executive is Mr Simon Tattersfield, and First Stansted Assured Properties, which plan to buy properties near London's three main airports. Airways II, investing near Heathrow, was oversubscribed by £1.25 million when it closed this month. Airways III has turned its

attention to Gatwick, where a similar demand for property is expected.

Analysts say the Gatwick region may have more potential than Heathrow, and expect a good response. First Stansted, sponsored by Chancery, took in just under £2 million in December, and has launched a new offer to take it up to the £5 million allowable under assured tenancies.

Stansted Airport is in the middle of an expansion programme which is expected to create more than 9,000 jobs by 1995. The number of people working in the area is expected to rise fivefold, fuelling the demand for new housing.

Also doing well is Artesian II, the unsponsored company raising funds to develop property in London. It has raised nearly £3 million — putting it about 35 per cent ahead of last year's issue.

Even Biggin Hill airport is making an appearance this year, thanks to a company which wants to set up a helicopter charter service. But Mr Peter Robson, who is both chairman and managing director of Nationwide Helicopters, admits he knows more about property than flying.

Nationwide wants to buy at least one helicopter and use it for sightseeing, travel and aerial surveys. It hopes to pay £270,000 for a second-hand Bell Jet Ranger. The maximum that can be raised is £500,000, leaving little margin for error once launch and running costs have been taken off.

Mr Robson said the company could function "quite satisfactorily" with as little as £300,000 and £100,000 had been pledged so far. The issue closes on April 7.

Another issue, Cask & Tun Inns which wants to redevelop public houses, is predicting pre-tax profits of more than £1 million after just three years' trading — something analysts regard as highly optimistic.

Mr Ian Bayliss, the finance director, said the company was able to predict a high level of profits because of low



Winner: Simon Tattersfield

running costs. If anything, the projections erred on the side of caution. "We have tried not to be too optimistic in our forecasts and have taken a realistic view. Our auditors have checked our estimates."

The issue is sponsored by Neil Clerk, the Scottish solicitor, who is also behind one of the season's more colourful entrants, Dairy Harvest wants to raise £250,000 to buy a herd of Friesian cows and a crop of potatoes, and pay a farmer to look after them.

The farmer, Mr Neil Davidson, of Aberdeenshire, has the option to buy back the herd, crop and equipment after five years. The sponsors stress that milk and potatoes are an essential part of many diets.

Most of the issues are due to close by April 5, to coincide with the end of the tax year.

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But they can be made immediately with a loss of 90 days interest on the amount withdrawn.

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Once your account is set up you can deal direct with Douglas, but initial enquires can be made at your local branch of Bradford & Bingley Building Society.

Or you could simply complete the coupon below and we'll send you further details.

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Interest rates are variable. Branch withdrawal limit £100,000. Full details of terms and conditions available on request. Interest will be paid on 5th April 1991 for the Independent Bond and every 6th April for the Independent Account. Deposits must be made in pounds sterling. Bradford & Bingley (Douglas) Ltd, Principal Place of Business: First Floor, 30 Ridgeway Street, Douglas, Isle of Man. Tel: 0624 662883. Fax: 0624 661962 With share capital and reserves of £1,000,000. Incorporated in England. (Registered No. 2409520) Registered Office: Main Street, Bingley, West Yorkshire BD10 2LW. Deposits made with offices of Bradford & Bingley (Douglas) Ltd in the Isle of Man are not covered by the Deposit Protection Scheme under the Banking Act 1987.

FAMILY MONEY

The A to Z of B and B

Jon Ashworth on
the ins and outs of
the great tax-saving
ritual of spring

Selling shares one day and buying them back the next is one of the traditional tax-saving rituals of spring. But "wash and break" deals have lost some of their charm since the Inland Revenue took steps to increase the risks.

The idea makes sense for investors who want to use their annual £5,000 capital gains tax exemption or to protect a loss to set against future capital gains. By selling shares near the close of business one day and buying them back the next morning, investors can set a new base cost for shares or record a loss on paper, hopefully without losing the value of their shares.

The Inland Revenue insists that there must be some investment risk in the transaction. This means its no longer possible to guarantee a price overnight, and investors must run the risk of the market moving against them.

Sharelink has special terms for customers wishing to bed and breakfast. A minimum commission of £17.50 is charged on sale, with only stamp duty to pay on repurchase. There is a flat fee of £250 on deals involving £8,000 or more.

Mr David Jones, the chief executive, said demand for the service had been picking up. "The difficulty now is that the repurchase price cannot be pre-arranged," said Mr Jones.



"A couple of years ago, a client could buy back shares the next morning knowing the price was set. Today, there is the risk that prices will move overnight."

Torrie & Co, the Edinburgh stockbroker, makes a charge when shares are sold, but only charges stamp duty on the repurchase. Commission stands at 1.8 per cent, with a minimum of £24. Mr John Torrie, the senior partner, is

recommending clients to sell their shares and buy them back as part of a personal equity plan.

This way, they can record a gain or a loss for tax purposes while ensuring tax-free growth in the future. The danger is that a few days could go by while shares are sold and repurchased, increasing the risk of price changes.

Unit trust investors are in a similar position, since buying

and selling units may be spread over one or two days. The exception is M&G, which is the only unit trust group to have its units listed on the Stock Exchange. This means unitholders can deal through their stockbroker in the same way as with shares, saving time and reducing the risks.

M&G has an arrangement with Capel-Cure Myers, who charge a minimum commission of £45 on the sale of units. The cost of a bed and breakfast will usually be about 1.5 per cent, including stamp duty and the dealing margin.

M&G investors will normally be asked for their name, address and telephone number, the full name of the M&G fund, and the number and type of units that they wish to bed and breakfast. It is not necessary to send in unit certificates.

Fidelity, like other unit trust groups, needs written instructions before it can bed and breakfast for clients. It will not accept instructions sent by facsimile and will return incomplete documentation. Fidelity will not bed and breakfast after March 30.

Save & Prosper warned it could take two dealing days to complete the transaction. It sells the units back to clients at a discount of up to 4.5 per cent off the normal 6 per cent bid/offer spread.

Mr Keith Cival, a director of Save & Prosper Securities, said the element of risk was always there. "In the present volatile market, prices could move 2 per cent quite easily overnight. That's part of the risk you take."

SIB has teeth but not much of a bite

By Lindsay Cook

A guide to complaining published this week by the Securities and Investments Board for the customers of the 89 firms directly regulated by the board reveals some of the shortcomings of self-regulation.

Even if the board feels that a complaint is justified, it appears to have little muscle. It says: "If SIB agrees that there is substance in your complaint, it will try to help you to achieve a satisfactory resolution and may comment on whether or not any offer of redress made by the firm seems to be reasonable in the circumstances."

However, complainants will not be told whether any disciplinary action is to be taken against a firm as a result of the complaint.

These clients dissatisfied with the result of a SIB investigation have two months to apply for their complaint to be referred to an independent panel. It will then be passed on only if the board's



complaints committee considers this to be appropriate.

After the inquiry is completed a report will be sent to the complainant, the firm and SIB. The booklet says: "Although the content of the report will not be enforceable in the courts, it may be taken into account by SIB in its regulation of the firm concerned. Refusal to comply with recommendations made in reports might... lead to consideration by SIB as to whether any disciplinary measures should be taken against the firm."

The independent investigator can act

as arbitrator to resolve the complaint. But the merits of the case alone will not bring about such a decision. "It may be that the independent investigator concerned may feel that it would be inappropriate for him to act as arbitrator, in view of his previous attempts to bring about a conciliated settlement."

The guide contains a form to save complainants detailing their grievances about banks and building societies in a letter. Customers are told they must first complain to the most senior manager of the firm concerned if they are not happy with the way they have been treated.

Firms must have a proper complaints procedure. Only then can dissatisfied clients complain to the SIB. Those in doubt about how to go ahead can telephone the complaints unit of the board on 01 283 2474.

Copies of *Investment Businesses Regulated by SIB: What To Do If You Need To Complain* are available free from the SIB, 3 Royal Exchange Buildings, London, EC3V 3NL.

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Alternatively you can telephone for the details on 0604 495 707 (24 hours).

Or you can complete the coupon below and return it to the FREEPOST address provided.

All investments into the Fund must be received by 5pm on the 5th April 1990. In the event of the Fund being heavily subscribed, Nationwide Anglia Fund Management Ltd can bring this closing date forward.

The offer to subscribe to the Fund must be accepted only on the terms and

conditions set out in the Scheme Particulars and Acceptance Form.

The Fund is approved by the Inland Revenue under the Income and Corporation Taxes Act of 1988.

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No news really is no news as Indosuez acquires Gartmore

Barbara Ellis on the sound of silence around the purchase of fund manager

It is more than a week since Banque Indosuez bought the Gartmore fund management group. But at least another month will go by before Gartmore's 100,000 unit trust holders hear of this direct from the group.

Even then, they will not receive separate notice of the £140 million deal, news of which is to be incorporated in a unitholder magazine.

Gartmore is not dragging its feet. Unit trust managers are under no obligation to tell unitholders anything at all about changes of ownership or management policy which may affect them significantly. And although takeover bids are partly calculated on funds under management or unitholder money, none of the cash inducements on offer actually go to unitholders, who are less fortunate than building society account holders in this respect.

"We would like to produce quite a precise document rather than just a letter about the takeover," said Mr Peter Pearson Lund, the managing director of Gartmore Fund Managers, explaining that the magazine, currently in the planning stage, would also contain information on personal equity plans and unit trust performance.

"It will say that the takeover will have no effect on the management of their units, or if anything it will enhance it," he said.

However, there will be no reference to plans for Gartmore to buy other groups, though executives of both Indosuez and Gartmore have said publicly that this is the intention.

Mr Bernard Simon-Barboux, executive vice president of Indosuez, has gone on record with an estimate that



Silent corridors: Gartmore's HQ in Monument Street, London

Gartmore's administrative capacity is 50 per cent unused and has forecast takeovers of other unit trusts to create economies of scale.

Mr Pearson Lund said it was too early to give news of development plans. "What unitholders will be interested to know, I should have thought, is that there will be no change of management and continuous growth," he said.

But experience in recent

If Banque Indosuez had succeeded in buying Morgan Grenfell last November, that group's 13,000 unitholders could have been as slowly and as partially informed as Gartmore's will be.

As it was, Deutsche Bank was the buyer and Mr Tony Fraher sent out letters to all unitholders to arrive on the day the announcement broke in newspapers.

"We said there was no direct effect on them, except being made part of a larger group with access to wider expertise," said Mr Fraher. "Unitholders have entrusted you with their money and you owe them a bit - if you don't keep them informed they may not stay with you very long."

Mr Richard Eats of GT Management took a similar view, writing to 50,000 onshore and 35,000 offshore investors when Bank in Leichtenstein took over GT early last year.

As a public company, GT was unable to inform unitholders in advance of shareholders.

"We thought they would like to know," he said. "Heavens, we are looking after their money."

But Thornton Investment felt under no obligation to tell its 18,000 unitholders of the takeover by Dresdner Bank in May 1988.

"Hopefully there was enough in the press to let them know," said Ms Thomasina Banks, the marketing manager.

However, she added that Thornton had run a number of promotional roadshows to let brokers know what the situation was and how delighted Thornton was.

Framlington Peps close with little redress for holders

By Lindsay Cook

The 11,800 holders of Framlington unit trust personal equity plans taken out in 1987 and 1988 have been told by the investment group that the peps are being closed down on April 4 and that they can do nothing about it.

If they fail to do anything about the group's proposals by March 30 their investment will be returned to them early next month and will lose the tax shelter benefits of a personal equity plan.

Because of the way the plans - the first unit trust-only Peps - were set up, there is only one unit holder. That is Framlington Investment Management, which has decided to close the plans.

In the original trust deeds, investors were told the plans could only be wound up when they were worth less than £4 million with the permission of an extraordinary meeting or if investors were given six months notice.

However, Miss Anne McMeenan, of Framlington, said the provisions contained in the trust deeds had been superseded by regulations controlling unit trust schemes under the Financial Services Act.

She added: "Under the Act, unitholders have no power at all to approve or sanction the liquidation of a unit trust."

One of the investors annoyed at the unilateral action by Framlington said he invested because of the extra services promised to planholders in the form of detailed annual reports and annual meetings. These were now to be lost.

On Monday, investors in Framlington 87 and 88 Peps will get the chance to express their views at the plans'

general meeting at the Barbican Centre in London.

Investors may opt to transfer their investments free of charge into any of the group's four UK funds. Miss McMeenan said Framlington had received requests for 3,000 transfers, while 500 planholders had chosen to sell now instead of waiting until April 4.

The letter to investors stressed the importance of a response by March 30, stating: "If we do not receive your reply by this date, we regret that we will have no choice but to send you a cheque for the proceeds. This will have two significant and unfavourable consequences for you:

"Your investment will cease to be protected from taxation under the Peps regulations," and "if you do decide to reinvest the proceeds in a Peps, then that reinvestment will count against the maximum you are allowed to invest within the current financial year." No mention was made of the right of Peps investors to transfer their funds to another manager.

Miss McMeenan said it had been hoped to amalgamate the two Peps, but this had not been possible.



McMeenan: 3,000 transfers

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FAMILY MONEY

Early advice is the key to mortgage problems

Helen Pridham
looks at options
for coping with
repayments

The official arrears figures from the Council of Mortgage Lenders show that only a tiny fraction of homebuyers — 0.88 per cent — are six months or more behind with their payments.

But these statistics do not reveal the many thousands who are running up other bills so that they can meet monthly mortgage repayments.

Many of these families need help now before they get behind with their mortgages.

One example is the London couple who approached Family Money, asking how they could reorganize their finances.

The couple, who have four children, are paying a total of £1,243.54 a month to service a £65,000 first mortgage and £21,500 second mortgage.

In recent months they have run up a £3,000 bank overdraft and a £1,500 Access bill.

"The problem is that such a large part of our earnings goes on the mortgages that we haven't got much left besides for other bills," they said.

"We have to pay for child care so that we can both go to work but even paying the child minder is becoming difficult."

"We feel we are in a vicious circle and we don't know how we are going to manage when we have to make increased payments because of the latest mortgage increase."

They added: "We are seriously considering whether we should sell up and move into rented accommodation to get back on our feet again."

There are many other options that can be considered before it comes to that particular route.

A list of 15 possibilities was



recently produced by Mr Philip Norman, the mortgage controller of the Portsmouth Building Society which has set up a free telephone help-line for its borrowers in difficulties.

He stresses: "The earlier someone approaches us, the more options there are available."

"If they wait until they are already several months in arrears, the choice is more limited."

"The main options include a temporary reduction in payments, a freeze on payments, extending the term of the mortgage, switching from an endowment to a repayment mortgage or a remortgage if there is sufficient equity in the property."

A remortgage is a way of putting several bills under one roof.

Mr Norman explained: "Remortgages can help to reduce the borrower's outgoings by clearing expensive second mortgages or short term credit such as bank overdrafts and credit card bills."

"There is some resistance to remortgages by consumer groups who make the point that if payments aren't kept up then the borrower's home is at risk."

Mr Norman added: "But if he cannot afford to meet his mortgage payments because he is busy fending off other creditors who often tend to shout louder for their money than building societies, then the same problem arises."

But not all building societies are as flexible as the Portsmouth.

Mr Peter Gargett, former chief executive of the Scarborough Building Society, who has set up Miers Gargett, his own firm of mortgage adviser, in Leeds, said: "Many

building society staff adopt a rather Victorian attitude to their borrowers on the lines of — it's your fault: you got into difficulties, so you must get yourself out of them."

He added: "Much of our business at the moment is remortgages for people in this sort of situation."

Mr Ian Darby, marketing director of John Charcol, the London mortgage specialist, said that his company is doing mainly remortgage business.

"We call it financial engineering. Through a remortgage, it is possible to help borrowers on ordinary vari-

able rate mortgages take advantage of other types of mortgages now available such as fixed rate, deferred interest or stabilized rate mortgages."

"Also a larger mortgage may qualify for a lower rate of interest."

"Many lenders charge 0.5 per cent to 1.5 per cent less for a mortgage over £50,000 to £60,000."

Both Mr Gargett and Mr Darby recommend that the couple facing problems should consider rolling all their outstanding debts into one and switching to a stabilized rate mortgage.

"This would reduce their monthly mortgage payments

by around £250 and mean they no longer had to worry about their credit card bill or bank overdraft."

"But they would have to make sure they did not continue to spend or they would end up in the same position again in a few months time."

Stabilizer mortgages offer loans at a fixed rate of, for example, 12 per cent for the whole 25 years, so that the borrowers know exactly for what figure they have to budget.

The underlying rate is variable — currently about 15.5 per cent — so, initially, interest is being deferred.

However, when interest rates go down, the deferred interest is repaid and if they stay down, capital is also paid off.

Mr Gerry O'Donnell, of Save & Invest, the Scottish adviser, pointed out that the couple could make even greater immediate savings by switching to a deferred interest mortgage.

He said: "They could reduce their monthly outgoings this year to £890.15, but the payments would gradually increase over a five-year period to £1,298.80, assuming interest rates stayed the same."

A remortgage is only possible usually if the current mortgage or mortgages come to less than 80 per cent of the property's market value.

No reputable adviser will ask clients to cash in any existing endowments, although they may be required to take out further life insurance to cover any extra loan.

The adviser may, however, require an arrangement fee of £200 to £300 which could, if necessary, be added to the loan, along with the valuation and legal fees.

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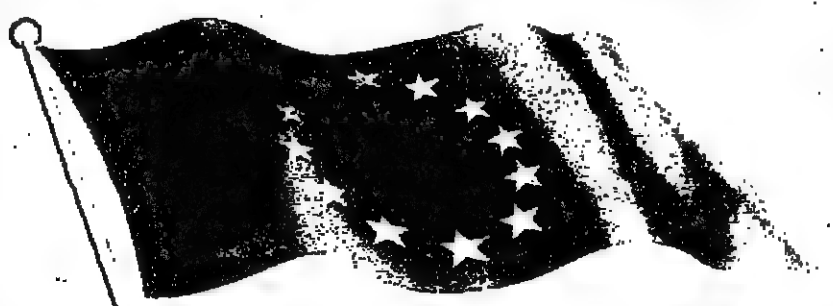


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THE INVESTMENT HOUSE

FAMILY MONEY

Lindsay Cook gives a warning about homes suddenly left vacant

Adding to bereavement grief

When Mrs Susan Smith's mother died in January this year she wrote to the insurance company which covered the building and the contents of her mother's home in Darlington, Durham.

A week later she received a reply from Teachers Assurance offering "sincere condolences" on her bereavement and in the following sentence telling her that the policy was now endorsed.

This meant that when the house had been unoccupied for 30 days it would no longer be covered against theft, vandalism, damage from burst pipes or oil leaking from heating installations.

Mrs Smith, who lives a long way south of her mother's home in Stevenage, Hertfordshire, was so upset by the terseness of the letter and the action taken that she looked out the policy sales brochure.

"There was no mention in the original brochure anywhere that the property would not be covered in these circumstances."

"We had taken every precaution against theft. On



the day of the funeral we removed all the valuables from the house and, as I pointed out in the insurance company, the house is under daily surveillance by a neighbour. The police have been informed and a light is switched on intermittently," said Mrs Smith.

"My mother died on January 8, and I wrote to the company on January 17 and

the reply was dated January 24. The 30-day limit is just ridiculous. Nobody could dispose of a property in 30 days."

"The house is for sale by private arrangement and there is no for sale sign. Hopefully it will be sold by Easter but that is moving at great speed."

Mrs Smith considered cancelling the policy but she was advised by her solicitor that no one else would take on

the cover when the property was empty. "I feel other people should be warned if I had not written to the company I would not have known about the change to the cover unless I had to make a claim," said Mrs Smith, a teacher as were her parents.

A spokesman for the Association of British Insurers said it is usual for companies to curtail policies after a month when properties are left empty.

"It is not usually theft and vandalism cover which is excluded after 30 days but damage from burst pipes. Some insurance companies ask the policyholders to leave the central heating system switched on."

"A lot more people are coming up against such endorsements because of the state of the property market. If they cannot sell their old home it may be left empty."

At Teachers Assurance, Mr T.C. Bowes, general manager operations, said: "The majority of insurance companies restrict cover if a property is unoccupied for a period longer than 30 days."

"It is our experience that the risk of theft and malicious damage is significantly increased when a property is left unoccupied for more than four weeks. It is also our experience that this is sufficient time for the majority of people to make arrangements to remove valuables and have any special items of furniture stored for safe keeping."

LETTERS

Transferring shares to minimize CGT

From Mr P.B.
Sir, I have just exercised an option to buy 5,000 shares costing £2,500. They are worth £12,000. Having already used my £5,000 capital gains allowance this tax year, I must defer selling them until after April 6.

However, if I sell them in the 1990/91 tax year, half the £10,000 gain will be taxable.

Can I transfer 2,500 shares, after April 6, to my wife who immediately makes a gain of £5,000 (£6,500 value less half £1,250 cost), then sell both lots of shares, thus also making a gain for myself of £5,000 but neither of us incurring capital gains tax liability?
Yours faithfully,
P.B.
Leeds.

It is correct in principle that the transfer of a holding of shares from husband to wife is exempt from capital gains tax and that the subsequent disposal by the wife of those shares after April 5 1990, will result in the possible gain being assessed on her as a separate individual to yourself. On this footing, the results mentioned in your letter should follow.

However, to reduce the risk of any challenge by the Revenue under the anti-avoidance provision, I would recommend a reasonable interval between the transfer to your wife and her subsequent sale of them. This should be at least a month and if possible longer. You may like to consider

transferring the shares to your wife immediately (i.e. prior to March 20 rather than April 5), as this transfer will also be exempt from capital gains tax and will fall into a different tax year to the eventual disposal by her. This transfer will need to be reported in your income tax return to April 5 1990.

So far as the mechanics of the transfer to your wife are concerned, you should obtain a stock transfer form from a firm of law stationers, complete it accordingly and send it to the company registrars with the share certificate. To avoid any charge to stamp duty you will need to complete the appropriate certificate on the back of the form. It may also be helpful to obtain a receipt of posting from the Post Office.

Disguise put them in for a big surprise

From Mr S. Bear
Sir, I read Tony Hetherington's article of March 3 "ABI questions prize-linked sales." I too received a "winners certificate" from Hospital Plan. I was very surprised and sent off my claim. I said I had no bank account as I have not and I did not wish to inspect the plan as I have no need for hospital insurance but I would like the

prize. I received a letter saying I had won a prize. Within two weeks the prize of £5 arrived by cheque which pleased me very much. I have now asked a friend to pay it into his account and give me the money as I am a Teddy Bear. Yours faithfully,
Mr S Bear,
6 Trossacks Drive,
Bath, Avon.

Simple answer to an inheritance tax problem

From Mr S.P.J. Van Wyk
Sir, In reply to Mr Brian Whittingham's letter "Tax anomaly" (Family Money Saturday February 24) there is relief available from inheritance tax for just such an event.

Briefly, shares sold within 12 months from date of death may have their prices adjusted to the sale value.

As with any relief available there are rules to be followed thus Mr Whittingham would be advised to take proper advice.

As to his point about the state being disadvantaged (God forbid!) on sales at more than probate perhaps he has forgotten about capital gains tax which although not payable on the "deemed disposal" death is certainly payable thereafter again sub-

ject to available exemptions and reliefs.
Yours faithfully
S.P.J. VAN WYK,
Probate Manager,
71 Spurrill Avenue,
Lower Parkstone,
Poole, Dorset.

From Mr P.W. Hooper
Sir, The simple — and apparently all too little-known — answer to Mr Brian Whittingham's problem is to sell the shares. The Inland Revenue will then accept the sale prices as evidence of the value of the shares in substitution for the previously assessed values at the date of death, and will re-imburse the amount of inheritance tax consequently overpaid.

I assure you that this is the case: my own mother died shortly prior to October 1987, leaving a useful share portfolio which she had in her turn been left by my late father; the

shares were valued as at the date of her death (28/8/87), and you can imagine the position when the time came for paying the inheritance tax in early 1988. By selling all of the shares at that point, my brother and I were able to recoup almost £25,000 in tax.

I might add that neither our solicitor or my late parents' accountant volunteered this advice; amazingly neither profession appears to have this course of action as readily in mind as they surely should. Yours faithfully,
P.W. HOOPER,
156 Woodland Gardens,
Isleworth, Middlesex.

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Portfolio
PLATINUM

For readers who may have missed a copy of The Times this week, we repeat below the week's Portfolio price changes (today's are on page 21).

Sec	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Week
1	+3	+4	+3	+8	+2		
2	+7	+2	+2	+3	+3		
3	+8	+8	+4	+5	+4		
4	+4	+3	+4	+5	+3		
5	+6	+5	+3	+6	+3		
6	+8	+3	+2	+4	+3		
7	+2	+2	+6	+4	+7		
8	+3	+2	+3	+6	+1		
9	+5	+4	+6	+5	+3		
10	+3	+3	+8	+3	+5		
11	+2	+2	+9	+5	+5		
12	+5	+5	+5	+4	+8		
13	+2	+1	+8	+5	+5		
14	+5	+1	+2	+2	+3		
15	+3	+3	+5	+7	+1		
16	+5	+5	+3	+5	+4		
17	+4	+3	+8	+5	+2		
18	+4	+4	+5	+4	+4		
19	+5	+3	+3	+4	+4		
20	+3	+2	+3	+8	+3		
21	+4	+8	+4	+5	+5		
22	+5	+2	+1	+3	+2		
23	+2	+3	+6	+4	+6		
24	+5	+1	+1	+3	+2		
25	+3	+4	+5	+7	+3		
26	+4	+6	+3	+4	+5		
27	+3	+1	+7	+4	+6		
28	+7	+2	+3	+2	+3		
29	+3	+2	+5	+8	+2		
30	+5	+3	+2	+4	+4		
31	+6	+5	+4	+8	+4		
32	+7	+1	+2	+2	+2		
33	+2	+2	+7	+3	+7		
34	+3	+3	+4	+6	+1		
35	+3	+2	+5	+6	+2		
36	+2	+2	+6	+4	+6		
37	+6	+2	+3	+3	+3		
38	+2	+1	+6	+8	+6		
39	+6	+5	+3	+6	+8		
40	+2	+2	+7	+4	+8		
41	+4	+4	+4	+6	+1		
42	+5	+4	+3	+5	+3		
43	+2	+1	+6	+5	+5		
44	+5	+1	+1	+3	+4		

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*Planned Savings survey of regular annual contribution with-profits personal pension plans July 1989.

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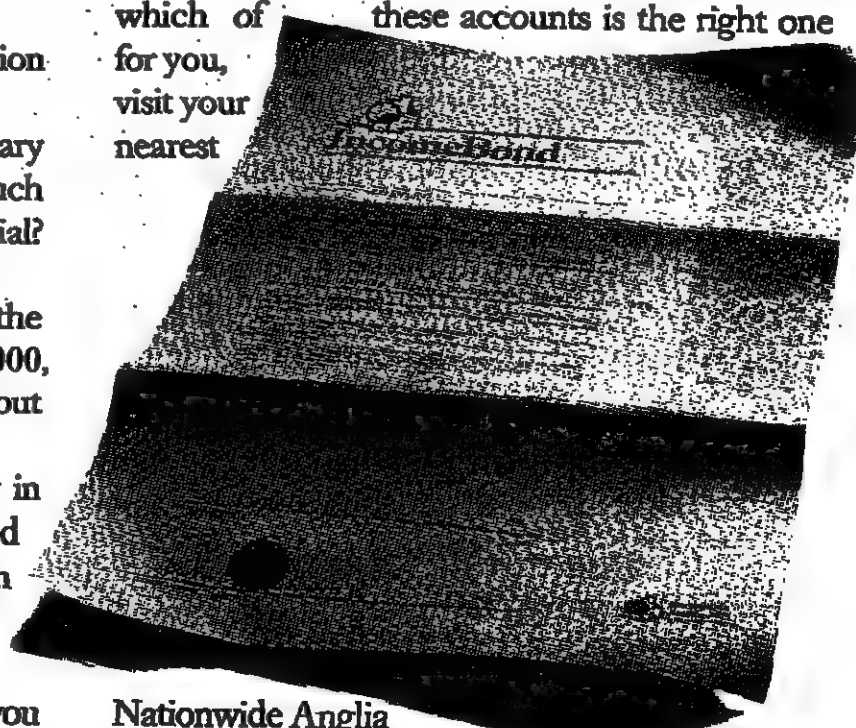
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July 1990

- WINE: MAJOR BUDGETING AHEAD?
- COOK: A TASTE OF REAL IRELAND
- EATING OUT: AT THE MUSEUM CAFE
- SHOPPING: MAKING MOTHER'S DAY

THE TIMES

REVIEW

SECTION 3

SATURDAY MARCH 17 1990

RODERICK ESDON



A son of the soil in the making

On my new farm there is a tumbledown barn that leans precariously away from the wind and creaks at every gust. There are rusty iron gutters along the edges of gaping roofs. Inside the crumbling buildings, wooden mangers are rubbed smooth where greedy bovine tongues once licked every ounce of corn from them. And in the soft redbrick walls are scratched the initials of the men who, a century ago, did what I am attempting to do today.

I am going to be a farmer. Not a modern farmer. I am not going in for state-of-the-art agriculture, which demands maximum return at whatever expense to land, animal or planet. I am not even going to be a reasonably mechanized organic farmer. I want to have the sort of farm of children's books, where chickens scratch at the foot of haystacks, pigs root in corners of fields (for whatever it is that pigs so earnestly root for) and where lambs frolic in meadows.

Stinking tractors won't get a look in either. I have bought three mighty carthorses, Suffolk Punches, which will reap and sow, plough and mow; carthorses doing what they were bred for. And there I shall be, at the centre of it all, leaning over the five-bar gate dispensing dubious rural wisdom to passers-by. I hope it will be an Old MacDonald type of farm.

But my farm will be no joke. I know that many modern farmers will already be laughing their socks off at the thought that a smug ex-townie with his old horse can teach them anything about growing food. All I would say is that within the walls of my crumbling farm buildings lies a fossilized wisdom which is about to have its resurrection.

The farming clock has to be turned back to the days when farming made sense. Few people these days seem to like farmers very much, which is unhealthy. They feed us cheaply and plentifully and we ought to be able to trust them. But even during the 1989 "Food and Farming Year", in which they were supposed to boast of their achievements, all they could manage was to fuel suspicion as to their dubious practice of feeding live animals with dead ones, some of them insane.

Fifty years ago, farmers were seen as jolly chaps who ploughed the fields and scattered 'til all was safely gathered in. No one sings hymns of praise about farming these days. It's a dark subject.

I think I can throw some light on it; not as an agriculturist or bio-scientist, but as one of a growing band of people who think it is time the grain train hit the buffers. It has been running out of control

After years working in television studios, Paul Heiney has bought a farm and intends running it in the old-fashioned way, using carthorses, a hand-plough and well-rotted muck on the fields. It's a dream and a challenge. He tells why

since the Second World War when the need to produce food was desperate. Grassland, meadows and heath disappeared as Churchill ordered the ploughs onwards. But farmers never got out of the habit; the grain train ran away with them. The agro-chemical industry spurred them on to produce more and more without a thought for the consequences to the land or the food. It also made some of them rich.

Now we are beginning to see the damage done. There are questions about nitrates in drinking water, salmonella in eggs, mad-cow disease in beef, hormones in milk and antibiotics in bacon. Too many questions, I think, to which there is only one answer.

The men who scratched their initials in the brick of my farm — among them A.J.P. 1867, P. Ely 1892 and W.M.S. and F.S. 1882 — were farming under a system which was better than any invented since, and from which we could still learn a lot. They worked in harmony with natural systems rather than try to fight them. The

muck their animals produced, to take one example, was not the embarrassment it is today. If I had not seen it with my own eyes, I would not have believed that slurry produced on farms in Holland (the consequence of highly intensive production of pig meat) is loaded into barges and taken for rides up and down the Rhine because they cannot think of anything else to do with it.

A.J.P., whoever he was, would have laughed. He knew how to keep stock and feed his land for free. The simplicity was the beauty of the system. He grew the corn and saved the straw. When winter drew on, the stock was brought from the meadows into the farmyard for shelter. Down their throats went some of his precious corn and, obligingly, the animal deposited the digested remains in neat little pats on the very straw that had carried the corn all summer long.

After six months of being trodden by ever heavier hooves in the farmyard, a miraculous transformation would have taken place; for when A.J.P. stuck his

fork into the muck he found it had turned into dark, rich, nutritious rotted compost. It had cost him nothing at all.

The horse and cart were sent for, and an army of men; and forkful by sticky forkful the precious matter was carted to the field to be ploughed in, to help grow more corn, to feed more stock, to produce more straw, to fill the yards in the winter. "Ee-I, Ee-I, O", as Old MacDonald would have said. And so revolved a highly efficient and natural cycle. It was organic farming before anyone had invented the idea.

Will it work today, on my farm? To the satisfaction of my critics, who will be many, I have to admit it may not. Not on the small scale I can afford. It is not because the natural system was in any way at fault, it is just that the figures don't add up any more. Yields of corn on the old farms were much lower than today, labour was cheaper, there was plenty of it and farmers did not feel they had a right to a rich living.

Now we pay farmers not to farm their land (it is called "set-aside"). Meanwhile, we have Development Commission which scratch their heads trying to create jobs in rural areas. We are paying huge sums to solve problems of our own creation.

So, to prove that the old farming was the best farming for the land and the countryside, I am putting on my boots and taking to the soil. It is the principle that matters, and the pounds will have to take care of themselves. It will cost all my family's spare income at first and cause some anxiety. But I don't care.

The farm runs to only 36 acres. Not big, hardly room enough for an out-of-town Tesco, but it will do to prove the point. Thankfully it has been in good hands; the fields still have their hedges, the trees are still standing and the first-class barn has not been converted into a second-class house.

In the valley in which my farm shelters were once some of the most lush and tasty grazing marshes in the area; but the "advance" of farming took the cattle off and put them in intensive units. Where once grew five-star fodder, invasive and unpalatable sedge has taken charge. We are joining forces with the Suffolk Wildlife Trust to restore them to verdant pasture: this will add a rented 25 acres to what we own, which will be useful.

By Suffolk standards, the countryside is hilly. From the highest point of the farm I can stand and smell, if not quite see, the sea. From here I hope in a few years time to look down on a farm as it would have looked 100

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"We were here": initials of old farmworkers carved in the redbrick wall



THE NED SHERRIN COLUMN

Lobster on the Orient Express

Henry James probably got it right. "Almost everyone interesting, appealing, melancholy, odd, seems at one time or another after many years and much life, to gravitate to Venice." It has taken me much life, little appeal, no melancholy, some oddness and 59 years. I should have gone six years ago, when I wrote an article, "Noel and Cole in Venice", for the Orient Express magazine. I neglected to claim the fee I had negotiated — two round trips. Last summer at David Frost's garden party I bumped into James Sherwood, who revived the famous train. Just as I began to press my claim another guest said what had form it was to discuss business at a social event and steered him away. Fate intervened when I talked after dinner to executives of Sealink (a sister firm) in Eastbourne. I elaborated on my sense of grievance. Last Thursday we embarked.

I asked an old friend, David Yakir, who is an advertising whizperson with the Ayer agency in New York, to come along. Yakir, a Brooklyn Jew, invented the faintly tiresome concept that we were two old Jewish widowers, Solly and Eddie, making the journey in the evening of our lives. This fiction was temporarily punctured at Victoria when I was asked for my autograph. The man produced two cards, one to sign, and one which proclaimed him "a private enquirer with 24 years CID experience". "Keep that," he said. "You might find it useful." My personal Poirot! The Solly and Eddie personas re-assembled ("we usually go to the

Catskills — they throw in Jackie Mason's), were treated royally en route to Folkestone, but at our age we found getting on and off the cross-Channel boat a slow anticlimax. Like Queen Victoria, I yearned for the Channel tunnel. Way back in 1858 Thomé de Grammont showed Prince Albert a design which prompted the Queen

like perfection tended by one David, from Louisiana, who had at least a dozen of us to look after and a boiler to stoke. France looked just like France when we went to sleep and we awoke to find Switzerland looking exactly like Switzerland. Paris, Zurich and St Anton yielded a more cosmopolitan batch of travellers, and I wondered for a long



to write: "Tell the French engineer that if he can accomplish it I will give my blessing in my own name and in the name of all the ladies of England." Palmerston put the kibosh on that. England, he said, was far too close to the Continent already. Frustrated, I remembered Chips Channon, who wrote in his diary on February 20, 1936: "Sir Arthur Colefax died today. He was a good man; talented, high idealist, but boring beyond belief. Lord Berners once said of him that he 'had been offered £30,000 p.a. to bore the Channel tunnel'."

WE HAD 24 HOURS of brochure-

time about the tragedy behind an overheard remark which came with the lobster: "I really regret taking Denia to the Grand Canyon." You are supposed to judge the sophistication of Orient Express travellers by who is reading Agatha Christie's epic and who has plumped for Graham Greene's *Stamboul Train*. I counted one of each.

BACK IN 1929 Evelyn Waugh wrote in his travel book, *Labels*: "What can I possibly write, now, at this stage of the world's culture, about two days in Venice, that would not be an impertinence to every educated reader of this

book?" Include me in. But I have to report that poor old Solly, misled in his dotage about European converters, had blown his American video camera and moaned about it as we passed every schloss and chalet, and boarded each gondola and vaporetto. At least it spared me hours of embarrassing posing. Then he failed to make his still camera work. However, I did find the perfect restaurant. Keith Waterhouse lent me an enchanting guide book — J.G. Link's *Venice for Pleasure* (1984 edition). On page 151, Mr Link recommends the Vecchia Cavana, "favourite restaurant of that celebrated gourmet, Mr Ber-

nard Levin". It was charming. Seeking to ingratiate myself, I pointed out the glowing tribute. "Ah! Signor Levin!" said the delighted waiter, and hurried away to fetch the *maitre d'hôtel*. They returned in triumph bearing a Polaroid picture. "Signor Bernard Levin!" they chorused triumphantly. Unfortunately the snap was of Signor Sammy Kahn, the distinguished lyricist of "Three Coins in the Fountain". We had not the heart to disillusion them.

WE DID WHAT we could in the time. We circled the Bridge of Sighs, we marvelled at churches, pictures and a cornucopia of Caneletto views. We inhaled the evening mist in St Marks and were dazzled by the clatter on Sunday morning. We had the ritual bellinis at Harry's Bar and coffee at Florian's. We inspected the traditional fussy, filigree glass and admired the simple, elegant, modern, Murano designs. Early on Sunday morning we made a pilgrimage to San Michele, where Diaghilev is buried. According to John Kent's colour guide to Venice, Gore Vidal spotted that the two pink ballet shoes (by Capezio, "Dancing Since 1887") on the little memorial are both for left feet. This huge island cemetery (Napoleon's idea) is dotted with sad cypresses under which thousands of Venetians are laid. Immediately inside the gate the hand-painted wooden sign points to the grave of three famous foreigners: "Ezra Loomis Pound, Stravinsky and Diaghilev (sic)". Passing countless children's tombs decked with flowers and touchingly illustrated with photographs, we found the latter two in a quiet Russian enclave. A bunch of fresh celandine sat on Diaghilev's plinth, some tulips on the plots of Stravinsky and Vera. The weather had ravaged the pale pink pumps. I examined them closely. How Gore could tell they were both left feet is a mystery. Wouldn't it have been easier to obtain a pair? Who was the young dancer who put them there and when? Are they replaced as they decay? The two great ballerinas I know best were out when I called to enquire so I can't give you the answers. Perhaps you know them?

AUSTIN MITCHELL

If I were...

We have a motto in the Thatcher Youth Movement: "Ours not to reason why. Ours but to do — or become John Moore". So when the Boss asked me to stand behind the counter of yet another of her shops, I was ready, no matter what was involved, I'm good at learning, a job quickly and I couldn't let her down after Nigel had behaved so badly. Yet the Foreign Office chaps were always so charming and diplomatic. These Treasury types either say nothing and leave loaded revolvers by my bed or go on about being up some creek without a paddle.

I'm beginning to understand how Dad must have felt in his days as a circus acrobat. Except that my act is rather more spectacular. Like walking across a high-wire in a strait-jacket, balancing between sterling crisis and depression while moving towards a pool of crocodiles known as elections. Still, at least the Boss has promised to back me all the way. So we won't have her gardener Mr Ingham throwing stones over the wall.

The real problem is not having anything to do while she prepares the Budget. Sticking pins in that wax model of Nigel does not seem to work. His salary goes

... John Major

up with each pin. I could tax the high earners. Yet that means the Boss's friends would be round here whinging, so she won't allow that.

The Treasury buds suggest taxing the rest, but Central Office tells me they are revolting and have to be appeased. I can't put up VAT or the duties on booze, baccy and petrol either. We've already got inflation back to 1979 levels and the order's gone out not to put it up further. So I'm left with interest rates. They are a bit like a Zimmer frame, yet they do keep me standing up.

I've no doubt the Boss will come up with something by Tuesday to go in that old box along with my wholesomest sandwiches. Trouble is, she only seems to bubble with ideas after the transatlantic phone rings, and Alan Walters seems to be working on a "don't call me, I'll call you" basis. It's a bit unkind of him to leave us on our own like this. Just because he's not getting paid any more.

So here I am. Keen young chap, bags always packed, ever ready to help like a Scout on life's Bob-a-Job Week, advised by some of the finest brains in the country, three days to go and not a word written. No gimmicks left. Nigel's used the lot. Can't just let the money pour in, because Chris Patten's trying to get his hands on it to buy off those militant Wat Tyler chaps.

Even if there's nothing to do, I've still got Tim Bell to help me convince people I'm doing jolly well. He's advising a drop of the Dunkirk spirit. One coast covers any mess and it might stop Michael Heseltine's Henry V routine. I wonder if Henry wore glasses?

On Tarka's trail

Otters are the focus of a new tourist project in Devon, reports John Hill

During the 1920s, Henry Williamson wrote his magical book, *Tarka the Otter*, set in the West Country. Now Devon County Council intends to popularize the valleys around the rivers Taw and Torridge through the Tarka Project.

An alliance has been formed between four district councils, the Royal Society for Nature Conservation (RSNC), the Countryside Commission and British Rail (which is calling its Exeter to Barnstaple service the Tarka Line).

It is hoped that what R.D. Blackmore's *Lorna Doone* did for Exmoor, the stout-hearted Tarka may do for the farming communities of the hinterland.

Williamson's tale ran to more than 30 editions, won him the Hawthornden Prize and worldwide admiration. But much of his popularity evaporated in the 1930s when his support for Sir Oswald Mosley and the Blackshirts was heavily condemned. Tarka, however, still weaver his spell, and descendants of his spell, and descendants of the otters Williamson wrote about continue to live along the two rivers.

That any otters are there at all, when they have vanished from most of England, is due to an abundance of hideaways giving concealment by day.

Nicola Oliver, project officer, admitted: "It is extremely unlikely that visitors will see otters. But we are improving the habitat for

otters and other wildlife. "North Devon is a stronghold for them — the only one, really, outside Scotland and Wales."

A 180-mile Tarka Trail will lead walkers around a figure-of-eight, taking in many places that can be identified in Williamson's narrative. A trail leaflet is being prepared and a guidebook is also planned.

Otters are obligingly far-ranging creatures on which to hang a story full of incident and varied settings. Williamson walked the length of the route he arranged for Tarka, which took him from the rivers' shared estuary, bordered by Bideford and Barnstaple, up to Cranmere Pool on Dartmoor.

Anyone wishing to follow in his footsteps should approach the Country of the Two Rivers by train from Exeter St David's, which passes through magnificent Devon scenery unscarred by motorways.

Williamson was a chronicler not only of otters but the rest of the area's wildlife. The ground-nesting, long-legged curlew was one of the animals he wrote of long since been banished by mechanized farming, but even

from carriage windows one can see herons fishing along riverbanks and buzzards wheeling over woodlands.

Newcomers on the riverbank may or may not make a difference to the otters. What is certain is that the 1920s were no idyl for them, either.

Chariton otterhounds worked the area and may have provided source material for Tarka's awesome enemy Deadlock, formerly a stag-hound. Hunters observed a voluntary ban when otters became scarce and now they have the protection of the law.

Nor will visitors see the grisly handiwork of old-time gamekeepers: "... in a wood where the corpses of herons, kingfishers, red-throated divers, cormorants and shags were nailed to an oak tree. Some had been shot, others trapped. The cormorants and shags were beheaded, for the Two Rivers' Conservancy paid one shilling for every head."

Henry Williamson, walking alone from his cottage at Georgeham village (Ham in Tarka) was no lover of crowds, still less of cars. If more people are going to know the Two Rivers, at least they will come on foot.

The Tarka Project is based at the Eric Palmer Community Centre, Barley Grove, Torrington, North Devon EX38 8EZ. The Tarka Otter Park, where visitors can be sure of seeing the animals, is run by the Otter Trust at North Petherwin, near Launceston.

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Or follow the Medieval Pilgrims' route, Camino Santiago, which encompasses the Romanesque and Gothic cathedrals, monasteries, palaces, convents and churches of such splendid cities as Burgos, Leon and Santiago de Compostella, some of which have been converted into paradises.

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A new day dawns. Another traveller's tale begins.

Continued from previous page

worked by horse. I was hooked. I worked one day a week for a year as a farmhand, wrote a book about it, and grew to understand not only the way farming used to work but, more importantly, how the carthorse fitted into the grand scheme. It was a formative year, at times exhausting and dispiriting. But when we went to plough, it was like making music.

Ploughing with horses is like no other experience that the land can offer. When it is going well and the horses, the man and the plough are in tune it is symphonic: the plough cuts straight and deep and the soil sings as it glides across the ploughbreast. The jangle of the harness underscores the whole piece and the heavy plod of the horses' hooves give it a rhythm. At the end of the furrow, you turn to see the landscape which you have scarred and then guide your horses round for the beginning of the next movement.

By some stroke of great good luck I had arrived at a point where my passions for the countryside, for working with carthorses and for growing food could fuse together. I decided to buy a farm.

In the meantime, I had considerable gaps in my knowledge to fill. Modern farming textbooks were clearly of no use, so my education was gleaned from Stephen's *Book of the Farm* (second edition, 1877) and Mayhew's *Illustrated Horse Management* (1890).

Slowly I am learning about



Sheepish: Paul Heiney with his children, Nicholas and Rose they uphold. My extreme reaction is probably not the answer either, but it is a gesture. If I have anyone on my side, I hope it will be the spirits of "A.J.P." and "P. Ely" for they, and men like them, created a science of farming that deserves better than to be dismissed as inefficient and sentimental rubbish. I am about to start on what for me will be a great adventure. I hope you will be with me on every long trudge down the furrow.

Paul Heiney, known to television viewers for his appearances on such programmes as *Tat's Life* and *In at the Deep End*, and his wife, writer and broadcaster Libby Purvis, moved to their new farm this month. Mr Heiney will be reporting regularly on his farming progress in *The Times Saturday Review*.

A CHILDHOOD: TEDDY KOLLEK



Teddy Kollek is one of the world's great mayors. Having administered Jerusalem continuously for a quarter of a century, with a reputation for even-handedness in a part of the world where fairness is not always best balanced, he is generally thought to be irreplaceable.

While the people of Jerusalem vote generally to the right when electing their deputies to the Knesset, they vote with their hearts when it comes to Kollek and his basically left-wing local administration. The fact that there has been less violence in Muslim east Jerusalem than in Gaza or the West Bank is put down largely to the respect held for Kollek among Arabs.

Heavy with awards and honorary doctorates from European, American and Israeli universities, Teddy Kollek, they say, is Jerusalem. Frequently autocratic, impatient with fools and angered by prejudice, he gets the impossible done, identifying totally with his city. This month his book, *My Jerusalem*, is published (Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £14.95).

Teddy Kollek was born in 1911 in the last days of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. His father worked for a private Rothschild bank, but during the First World War spent a lot of time on the eastern front. "When he was in Austria we would move to wherever he was, but mainly he was away."

The Treaty of Versailles saw Austria reduced. There was hunger and hopelessness. He remembers his parents queuing for hours to buy bread, not because they did not have money but because there was no bread. On one occasion he had a mild attack of dysentery and his mother queued 12 hours for chocolate, the prescribed remedy at the time.

As a boy he was not particularly aware of anti-Semitism. There were occasional anti-Semitic remarks but nothing serious. This may have been because, with blond hair, he "did not look particularly Jewish". Once in his teens he got into a scrap with some Austrian nationalist youths, who tried to hit him, asking him why he was going around with Jews. "In those days in Europe there were youth movements much more than today, and much more than you ever had here. Growing up you could either join the socialist youth movement, or the Austrian nationalist one — which, as Jews, we couldn't very well do — or a Zionist movement."

His parents were only moderately religious ("candles on Friday, but not necessarily synagogue on a Saturday"), but very interested in Zionism and would go to weekly lectures. In his teens he joined a Zionist youth group, mortifying his parents at his bar

"In school I don't recall having to think of a career. We led a much more carefree life"

by Ray Connolly

mitzvah when he made a fund-raising speech for the group. In one way and another he has been fund-raising ever since.

He always travelled. As a boy of 12 and 13, he and some friends hitch-hiked around Europe. Hitch-hiking was new in those days. "I must have known every valley in Switzerland, southern Germany and the Côte d'Azur. One year we went to Paris."

He was a poor student but that did not seem to matter as much then. Certainly the idea of entering the bank, like his father, bored him. "Socialism and anti-bourgeois feelings were prevalent among youngsters then. Today young people are always talking about a career."

In my whole school class, Gentiles and Jews, I don't remember that anyone was thinking about a career. We led a much more carefree life. Today you wouldn't dare enter the world without certificates. But the life I saw before me did not call for any formal requirements."

He left school at 18, but instead of going to university spent nearly a year reading in libraries in Vienna. By now he had begun to travel abroad, helping to organize Zionist youth movements in Germany, Romania and Britain.

In 1933 he went to Czechoslovakia to an area soon to be on everyone's lips, the Sudeten lands. "One day the leader of the Jewish community where I was working called me in. Sitting with him were a couple from Chemnitz in Germany who, while they had been out in the street, had been told that the Gestapo had gone to their house and were waiting for them."

"Instead of going home they went straight across the frontier into Czechoslovakia, leaving behind a child of three who was being looked after by relatives. They were desperate."

The head of the community told him he must go and fetch the child. Travelling on his Austrian passport he took the train to Chemnitz and got in touch with a

local Zionist group. In addition to getting the child, he had been asked to go to the parents' house and get the key to a safe deposit box in Paris, as well as documents and money.

"On the door were the Gestapo seals which we had to break. We found the key and documents and I picked up a teddy bear to keep the child happy on the way back to Czechoslovakia."

He began the return trip across the frontier. His passport also included the name and date of birth of his younger brother from the days when they hitch-hiked around Europe together. Now the date of birth was smudged with a deliberate ink blot.

"I was terrified, particularly because I had a lot of money on me and you were not allowed to take out money in those days. But on the way I had been reading an Edgar Allan Poe story in which there was a search but the object was never found, because it wasn't hidden but was lying on the desk all the time."

When he and the child reached the German frontier and he was very thoroughly searched ("I remember them pushing needles through the teddy bear"), he coolly put his wallet down on the desk and said that was all he had. "They searched everything apart from the wallet."

Years later he tried to find the parents and child again but was unsuccessful. The Chemnitz episode was the beginning of various clandestine operations in his life: smuggling young people into Palestine when it was controlled by the British, and collecting arms in the United States for the new state of Israel after 1947.

In 1935 he emigrated to Palestine by way of Trieste and Haifa. He was 24 and he had been thinking about going since in his mid-teens. "At that age you don't think about the future. To us it was a very exciting thing to go to Palestine and build up a new country, to join a kibbutz and start a new way of life, so different from



Teddy Kollek and, above left, as a child (with his mother): "It was exciting to start a new life in Palestine, so different from the lives at home"

the comfortable lives at home. "I suppose we were all rebelling against our parents, which is not an uncommon thing for youngsters to do. I think we felt we were older than our parents in that we left home and didn't look back. We didn't ask for any support and lived far less sheltered lives than they had done."

His first view of Palestine was from the ship as they approached Haifa. "It was a beautiful city and all night we had been singing songs. It was very romantic."

His first job was mixing cement for housebuilding. Sometimes he passes by the village where he worked and is pleased to see the house is still standing. After that he went to the shore of the Sea of Galilee where he helped found the Ein Gev kibbutz.

It was not easy. "We were at the

bottom of the hill, and up on the hill was Syria. We were attacked several times and lost some members. But we grew bananas and we fished. For 10 years I was a fisherman. I used to joke that my middle name was Peter."

He visited Jerusalem for the first time in 1936 when, ill from typhoid and malaria, he went there to convalesce. He had always been interested in antiquities so Jerusalem naturally fascinated him. "But apart from that I had no preconceptions of what was to come," he says.

Soon Tamar Schwartz, a girl friend from the youth movement in Vienna, joined him and they married. In 1938 his parents also emigrated to Palestine.

He was by no means a full-time fisherman and in 1938 found

himself in London raising support for 3,000 young Jews from Germany, Austria and Czechoslovakia who had been arrested. With the help of Michael Foot, Frank Owen of the *Evening Standard* and prominent members of the Jewish community in London, he arranged to get permits for the young people to come to Britain. Then he went back to Vienna to arrange their release.

The man he had to see had taken over an office in the former home of the Rothschilds, his father's employers. "It was the first time he had been there. I don't know about the Rothschilds over here, but in Vienna they were pretty stuck up and didn't invite bank officials and their families to parties."

"The young man kept me standing while he sat. He wore a

brown suit. I remember he was fairly efficient." His name was Adolph Eichmann.

"Of course, Eichmann wasn't a name then. In those days they just wanted to have the Jews sent away, not necessarily to liquidate them. So I got the permits. When it became known later that I had dealt with Eichmann it was a big story. But at the time it was no big thing. He was just a very ordinary looking man, no horns or anything."

Today, almost 79 and still in office, Teddy Kollek likes to reflect on what he sees as "certainly the most exciting century that has ever existed. From a personal point of view I was always successful in what I wanted to do, but I was never bored. If I could now get peace in Jerusalem that would be perfect."

Holidays to write home about

Holidaying in Britain this year? Some of the most popular holiday destinations lie off the beaten track...

ISLE OF WIGHT PRISON

Nestling on its own island, the world-famous Isle of Wight Prison captures the ambience of a bygone era, and no guest is ever turned away. Ideal for someone wishing to experience the true simplicity of centuries past, the prison offers an utterly unspoilt break from modern life. Transport yourself back to the time of Dick Turpin, Robin Hood and Charlie Peace to enjoy 24-hour, round-the-clock attention, an excitingly different blend of fully-supervised activity programmes, rustic relaxation and traditional furnishings in understated rooms. The exquisite attention to detail by the staff ensures that for every guest a visit to the Isle of Wight Prison will truly be the stay of a lifetime. Rest awhile in the Isle of Wight, and discover a new meaning to the old adage, "at her Majesty's pleasure..."

ANGEL TUBE STATION

The new breed of executive traveller is looking for an excitingly different ambience, a hive of activity in a lively mecca conveniently located amidst the hustle and bustle of stylish, contemporary London. For the sophisticated hands-on executive who likes to rub shoulders with a myriad of different Londoners while keeping in touch with those from more distant climes, the Angel offers a vibrant retreat from the seclusion of office life. Thousands flock to this major attraction every day of the year, and many of them live to tell the tale. While you're there, be sure to experience the famous

"Wind Tunnel" as the suction from an oncoming train appears to transport you to another world, and don't miss the celebrated "Out of Order" lifts, allowing visitors young and old the breath-taking opportunity to climb to the surface by means of the ancient spiral staircase, many of them reaching the top.

RUSH HOUR AT LIVERPOOL STREET

While in London, on no account miss the thrills and will-they/won't-they excitement of the capital's most enigmatic and mysterious railway station. Many find that they come for an hour and stay a lifetime at this mecca for the weary traveller. Daily activity programmes include six opportunities every hour to hear the famous "British Rail Apologises For Any Delays" announcement followed by the Feeding of the Telephones, the Starting at the Empty Departures Board and a chance to participate in the famous, unnaturally lengthy queues. Opportunities for busy conference executives abound, with a full staff maintaining a superbly



CRAIG BROWN

equipped silence around the clock. Experienced travellers have been known to catch a train from this station, but this should on no account be attempted by the casual visitor without fully qualified supervision.

THE M25

People tend to linger longer at London's very latest experience in circular travel. Relax in the comfort of your own car and feel yourself a part of the famous "Eight Mile Tailback", or simply enjoy the intimacy of other travellers

'Relax in the comfort of your own car and feel yourself a part of the famous Eight Mile Tailback'

clustered in the warm ambience of the capital's very latest tourist trap. Tranquillity, peace, solitude... these are the words which will leap to your mind as you traverse this celebrated pass. Over one million people a day take the chance to stop for hours on what has been described as the Eighth Wonder of the Whirlwind, and even the most seasoned of travellers will find that they just can't pull themselves away. Be sure to enter the famous "Dartford Tunnel", though exits are by appointment only.

SET IN CONCRETE ON AN M3 FLYOVER

Nestling in a block of concrete with breath-taking views over the M3, the busy defaulting executive will have the holiday to end all holidays enjoying surroundings tailored to his own individual requirements. Here, guests soon find that they have become part of the landscape, their accommodation resting high above panoramic views of a dynamic, utterly modern and contemporary thoroughfare. This, indeed, is one of the world's most desirable resting places, where guests are encouraged to just lie back and "let it happen". "Put up a struggle," says manager Ronnie Gray, 45, "and you'll only make it worse." Utterly private, set in exclusive quick-drying concrete, such complete immersion in a sophisticated flyover represents the kind of long, long vacation you have been crying out for.

CHARING CROSS ARCHES

The world of Charles Dickens is vividly created each night here in London's exclusive

West End. Men, women and children are all flocking to combine the modern convenience of a cardboard box with the olde-worldie atmosphere of the gutter by night. With soup delivered twice-weekly, this is a must for the outdoors type, a new concept in totally informal, stay-as-you-are accommodation. No wonder those who have experienced it just once tell us that it has made them want to "get away from it all". Under the Arches at Charing Cross offers a complete break from the workaday world and guarantees you utter seclusion within walking distance of London's exclusive Westminster. Visited by world-famous Mother Theresa on her last visit to the capital, this unique opportunity to see the stars of London from the intimacy of your own mist-filled cardboard box (newspapers extra) is fast becoming London's busiest nightspot.

A FORTNIGHT IN THE STUDIO AUDIENCE OF BBC'S KILROY

Relax in front of a roaring argument as traditional BBC hospitality — tea, plastic cup, one sachet sugar — bids you a warm welcome to this prestigious activity programme. Whether you are a one-parent family with a history of depression or a tug-of-love lot with a missing moggy, your legendary guide with his famous catch-phrase "Take a deep breath, we've got all the time in the world" will be there to transport your miseries in streamlined elegance to a larger public. Gasp with wonder as the famous Mist of Boredom rolls over the celebrated Eyes of Kilroy. After a fortnight's stay in this fully enclosed studio, you too will feel that you are "running out of time"...

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FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

How to turn heads in the East

ROBIN JACQUES

EAST
17 MAR
1990
GERMANY

Ornithologists as a rule do not wield much influence on political terminology, but in East Germany the word of the moment has emerged improbably from the annals of the birdwatcher to describe the salient feature of a society which is emerging from what used to be called "really existing socialism" into something rather different.

The *Wendehals*, or wryneck, is a member of the woodpecker family and possesses the useful ability to turn its head in a full circle.

For the bird this is a handy way of gaining increased access to the scurrying ants which are its gastronomic fare. For its human namesake it is an equally propitious characteristic in times of sudden political change.

East Germany, in common with most of Eastern Europe, echoes to the flap of turning coats these days as one of the most disciplined communist states turns its attentions and principles towards the free market, and marks replace Marx as the motor of politics.

The observation of Goethe's Faust, that "two souls dwell, alas, within my breast", has never looked truer, as the ideologies of yesterday reveal themselves as today's pragmatists.

Consider the case of Eberhard Aurich. Known as the "professional youth", he headed the *Freie Deutsche Jugend* youth movement for most of the Eighties, well into his own middle age. A colourless functionary, even by East German standards, he showed every sign of following his predecessors in the job - Egon Krenz and Erich Honecker - into mainstream politics, and had prepared himself assiduously for the role by traipsing behind the former leader on lengthy and purposeless "friendship visits" to Eastern bloc countries and decreeing that punk music and fashion as youthful expressions of alienation had "no place in our socialist society".

Despite years in the fantasy world of functionarydom, however, Herr Aurich has shown a remarkable talent for reading the writing on the crumbling wall.

He has deserted the reformed youth movement, taking with him a good share of its property and office space, with which he has set up a limited company supplying giant video screens for rock venues including, you guessed it, those of punk leaning previously denied permission to perform in public on his orders.

After the November reforms hours of fun were to be had here, spotting the emerging *Wendehals*

Only brave Communist Party followers in East Germany present themselves as anything other than passive victims, says Anne McElvay

dusting themselves down to start off in a new direction. Their numbers have grown with such rapidity since the problem these days in finding anyone who does not fit the description.

The best of breed for a short while was the interim leader, Herr Krenz, who flipped from being a dogmatic supporter of the former regime to its dismantler in a few hours behind the closed doors of the Politburo purge.

He emerged excusing his past silence with the observation that he had been secretly in favour of change for two years. There are many ways to spot the greater crested *Wendehals*, and one of them is the warble "I was always..." Another is the insistence that the accused always did his best to change things "within the range of possibilities open to me at the time", indicating that the system had such a stranglehold on the budding reformer that he was constantly thwarted in attempts to budge it.

Curiously and irritatingly, this is most frequently spouted by those who thrived within the former regime. The brown-suited Civil Servant from the foreign ministry charged with "looking after" me, as he disarmingly termed his surveillance, carried out his duty with alacrity, providing strings of unwanted interview partners to fill up every spare moment of the visiting correspondents' time, lest they find someone independent or interesting to talk to.

He embraced me warmly when we met again last week (another feature of the *Wendehals* is that they are never ousted from their nests, despite the climatic upheaval round them). "Terrible times, weren't they?" he said jovially. "You must excuse some of the incidents then. Orders from above and all that. Nothing we could do about it."

Apart from a handful of dissidents, everyone from the Civil Servant to the factory worker now subscribes to the line that they did not like the old system but that there was "nothing we could do about it".

The similarities with the ducking and weaving which followed the collapse of the Third Reich are unmistakable. Even the morally dubious concept invoked after the war of *Befehlshandlung* - being

free from guilt because one was acting under orders - is evoked without a shred of embarrassment.

Already a kind of national litany is chanted when the subject of the past 40 years is raised. Ask how people feel about the former regime and you will almost inevitably get the rhyming reply "Belogen und Betrogen" (lied to and deceived). Only the brave few will present themselves as anything other than passive victims.

The inquiries into charges of corruption and misuse of office by leading functionaries support his view. Every Communist Party district secretary refers to orders from the regional secretary, who in turn talks of his orders from the Politburo.

The former Politburo elite then wait on East German television before an open-mouthed audience that it was not their fault: Herr Honecker and his security chief, Erich Mielke, gave the orders and brooked no dissent from within the oligarchy.

EAST
17 MAR
1990
GERMANY

One feels something approaching warmth for the two villains themselves, who are fast looking like the only two non-*Wendehals* in the political firmament. Herr Mielke, despite presiding over a spider's web of small-time spies and informers to keep the population in its place, is now almost fondly remembered for what must rank as one of the most absurd vaudeville speeches on record, when he told the East German parliament of the Stasi: "We are the sons and daughters of the working class. We did it for you. I love you all," before being hauled off to the same jail his forces used to administer.

Herr Honecker calmly told the vicar in whose home he has been given sanctuary that he is looking forward to his trial to explain why he is still right.

But they are yesterday's men. The question facing today's East German society is how to absorb so many sudden converts from the old system. The East German electorate goes to the polls tomorrow faced with a list of candidates wishing to participate in the new order, who previously arranged

themselves quite successfully with the old. All parties have had trouble convincing the people that they do not contain a large proportion of former Communist Party members. Former communists do not seem to be fussy where they end up - the most right-wing of the conservative parties had to sack 40 per cent of its executive in the south of the country, when it emerged that they had formerly been Communist Party members but failed to declare this when they stood for election.

The news that Herr Wolfgang Schnur, the most prominent conservative leader to emerge since the reforms, worked for the Stasi while defending dissidents, has however provoked little more than a few tuts.

In the southern town of Plauen they joke about the similarity with the end of the Third Reich, saying that they cut the swastika out of their flags in 1945 to yield the red flag, and now they are cutting away the hammer and compass from the East German flag to make it West German.

The irony is rich, but the casual manner in which it is absorbed is chilling. In which direction will the locals turn themselves next? Former party members have already been seen handing out the literature of the extreme right wing Republican party.

The visitor to East Berlin is greeted these days by a smiling border guard who enjoins one to have a pleasant stay; the same guards as before, of course, but relieved now of the order to be obstructive. It would be churlish to carp at the change, but the memory lingers of the dissident singer Wolf Bierman, banned from the country for 13 years and humiliated by the guards when he tried to return for the funeral of his friend and fellow dissident, the scientist Robert Havemann. No, Herr Bierman said, he could not bring himself to smile as the guard waved him through, and asked for his autograph when he was finally allowed to return. "I thought I did rather well not to hit him," he said. "I am not bitter, just consistent."

Consistency is what this liberated but uncertain society most clearly lacks, as it turns its addled head from the past to the future. On the basis of previous German experience, it will no doubt execute the flip with dexterity.

But amid the rejoicing at the end of a bad dream there lurks in not a few East German breasts the quiet but uncomfortable awareness that two volte-faces in half a century are enough to afflict even the most resilient with a touch of moral dizziness.



COLLECTING

Golden age of the *cloisonné* vase

John Shaw reports on a craft known in 16th century Japan

Malcolm Fairley helped discover a new collectors market while visiting a house in Fulham in 1983. He came across a pair of elegant imperial Japanese *cloisonné* vases presented to a British admiral in 1897.

Little was known about their past, but Mr Fairley, a Japanese expert on a valuation for Sotheby's, encouraged the owners to look through family papers. A letter was discovered which gave the pieces provenance, a crucial element in selling at auction successfully.

The vases, decorated with birds and bearing the imperial seal, were presented by the emperor to Admiral of the Fleet, Sir Noel Salmon, former commander of the China Station. The gift repaid his kindness to a member of the Japanese court at the Spithead review.

The vases were made by Namikawa Sosuke, one of the two pre-eminent *cloisonné* makers of the time. Estimated at between £10,000-£15,000 before the sale, they soared on the day to £22,000 and ended up in the British Museum.

"One or two people were collecting at that time," Mr Fairley says. "But I think it was the point at which the art market began to realise *cloisonné* vases of that quality were something special and needed study because so much, dare I say rubbish, was produced later."

Mr Fairley, an associate director of Barry Davies Oriental Art, has studied the subject in detail and put together a 42-piece exhibition from what he calls the golden age of Japanese *cloisonné* between 1880-1910.

It opens on Monday and coincides with the major Japanese sales at Christie's and Sotheby's when, to complete the symmetry, two more vases by Sosuke are on offer. This



Perfect pair: Malcolm Fairley holding the two *cloisonné* enamel vases by Namikawa Sosuke, a gift to a British admiral in 1897.

time the estimate is between £20,000-£30,000.

The technique is long and painstaking. It involves pouring coloured ground enamels into tiny compartments formed by an intricate network of exposed wire tracery on the surface of an object.

It is an ancient craft developed in Japan in the 16th century. The skill was "re-invented" in the 19th century and refined. Namikawa Yasuyuki (1845-1927) and Sosuke (1874-1910) became the leading figures. Yasuyuki opened his own business and produced one of the art's great advances - a true mirror-like black glaze, in 1897.

This began the golden age. It saw the emergence of Sosuke, who opened his workshop in Tokyo. He developed the semi-wireless technique (Shosen Jippo) between 1879-1881. Success was swift and he won the first class gold medal at the Amsterdam Exhibition in 1883.

Mr Fairley has found the vases which won the prize. The exhibition contains examples by all major artists of the period and it is possible to trace the styles of the two Namikawas from early to later wares. Yasuyuki was a brilliant craftsman, constantly seeking refinement; Sosuke, equally adept, was also a

businessman, something new in 19th century Japan.

A few years after the range of delicate wares was produced, the industry went into decline and remained in obscurity until the 1970s. Much later material was inferior to the early achievements.

"I saw all sorts of enamels come in when I was at Sotheby's. I realized there was a huge difference in quality. I wondered why, but nobody seemed to know or take it seriously as a subject. The rise of art glass forced a reconsideration," Mr Fairley says. Galle, Daum and Lalique in France, Tiffany in New York and Fabergé in the Soviet

Union were the main movements "but nobody seems to have looked at the early Japanese work, even in Japan", he says.

Mr Fairley led the way in this reassessment at Sotheby's. The British Museum acquisition gave the subject respectability.

"I want these things to be looked at by all collectors. They deserve a rightful place in the history of decorative art," Mr Fairley says.

● *Japanese enamels of the golden age*, Barry Davies Oriental Art, 1 Davies Street, London W1 (01-408 0207). Open 10am-6pm to March 30.

● *Sotheby's New Bond Street*, London W1 (01-493 8080). Japanese works of art on Monday, 10.30am and 2.30pm, Tuesday 10.30am.

● *Christie's, King Street, St James's*, London SW1 (01-839 9060). Japanese works of art, Wednesday and Thursday.

SALES GUIDE

Henry Spencer & Sons, 20 The Square, Bedford, Beds (0777 708833). Viewing Tues 10am-3pm. Sale Wed 11am.

THREE SISTERS: About 500 lots of Georgian and later furniture belonging to the late Miss Judith Barram, the last of three farming sisters who ran a large Norfolk estate. G. A. Key, 8 Market Place, Aylesham, Norfolk (0283-733185). Viewing Tues 10am-8pm. Sale Wed 10am.

MERSEY ORIENTAL: Fine textiles from the Arthur H. Lee collection, residue of a business in Birkenhead whose fabrics were used in Buckingham Palace and Windsor Castle. Holloway's, 12 High Street, Streatham, Berkshire (0491 872 318). Viewing Mon 1-5pm and Tues morning. Sale Tues 1pm.

MUSEUMS

Take one guide...

Never before have British museums had the boost they received from the 1989 Museums Year. It celebrated the centenary of the Museums Association and the achievement of museums in creating a new image for themselves and a new category of leisure activity.

Despite the fact that many museums said they had a disappointing summer because the hot weather had kept people out of doors, the Museums Association is confident that final figures will show 100 million visits to Britain's museums and galleries, representing a 20 per cent increase on 1988.

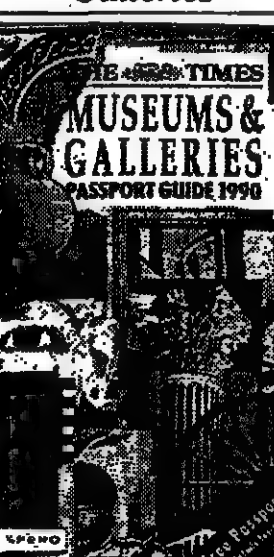
This year there is to be a new *Times Guide to Museums and Galleries*, remoulded to take account of comments from both museums and visitors. Last time we gave listings only to museums offering concessions as part of our Passport scheme. For the 1990 Guide, all museums are eligible. The listings have more than doubled, with over 800 offering Passport concessions.

Due to the increasing importance of museums in schools' curricula - with the GCSE emphasis on research - museums have an enhanced role for young people. This time there is an added Passport category with special concessions having been devised for holders of a new Junior Passport.

Once again the Guide is divided into 11 regions and there are 23 pages of full-colour maps to help users pinpoint the museums around the country.

All major museums appear again with some surprises and many favourites. The South-east has the new Canterbury

Simon Tait reviews the new *Times Guide to Museums and Galleries*



Heritage Museum with its unique collections ranging from Roman swords to Rupert the Bear, and the Museum of Kent Rural Life at Maidstone which has a hop garden as an object.

The West Midlands has the Buxton Micarium which opens the door to the beauty of the microscopic world, and the Birmingham Museum of Science and Industry with the oldest working steam engine in the world.

Bradford National Museum of Photography, Film and Television is a crowd-puller for the North-east, and a less well-known museum in the region is Wilberforce House,

in Hull, devoted to the great anti-slaver and his times.

In the North-west, Merseyside Maritime Museum, the museum which set the trend in Liverpool's Albert Dock, has a special exhibition on the Cunard Line, and from the Isle of Man, the Cregness Village Folk Museum has an entry.

Northern Ireland's Ulster American Folk Park has a new gallery devoted to the construction of a typical emigrant ship, and Armagh County Museum will be celebrating the 300th anniversary of the crucial Battle of the Boyne this summer.

In Scotland, Inverkeithing Museum has an exhibition about the construction of the Forth Bridge for the summer, and Palacetrig Exhibition Centre in Cumberland continues to examine the history of its own site through demonstrations and activities.

In the East Midlands and East Anglia region, Moyse's Hall Museum at Bury St Edmunds, which tells the gory Red Barn Murder story, is a sharp contrast to the Peak District Mining Museum at Matlock Bath, Derbyshire.

The *Times Guide to Museums and Galleries* is to be distributed through W. H. Smith, which will be doing a special promotion after Easter.

Readers can again take advantage of a pre-publication offer. From Monday, March 19, and for six weeks the Guide and Passport will be offered at a special price of £5.95, including postage and packing.

After publication on April 26, the Guide will be available through normal retail outlets, but the Passports, still free, will be available from The Times only.

Admission free, donations welcome.

MORSEY: Paintings, equipment, toys and skeletal remains trace the evolution of the horse and its role as a working animal in agriculture, warfare, leisure and sport. Glasgow Art Gallery and Museum, Kelvingrove, Glasgow (041 357 3929). Open daily 10am-5pm, Sun 2pm-5pm. Admission free, until April 1.

EXHIBITIONS

concessionaries, £2.25, Children, £1.50.

TIN TREASURES: Tin glazed pottery, China, Islam and the West. First used in Iraq, it spread gradually south and west until it reached northern Europe (Delft). Ashmolean Museum, Oxford (0865 278 000). Tues-Sat 10am-4pm, Sun 2pm-4pm.

MERLIN'S MAGIC: With the aid of new technology, a wizard tells the story of Wales. Another multi-media show awaits at the nearby Dinorwig power station, built into a mountain. Methods used to harness hydro-electric power explained and an underground trip to the generating centre. Museum of the North, Llanberis, Gwynedd (0286 870 636). Sun-Sat 10am-5pm. Admission, adults, £3.

CAMPUS

Youth's view of the future

With student loans and disaffiliation high on the agenda, April's elections for president of the NUS will be closely watched. Here the outgoing president reflects on her two years in office, and the two main candidates put their views

Three days after I was elected president of the National Union of Students (NUS), the then Secretary of State for Education, Kenneth Baker, announced that an inquiry was to be launched into the activities of student unions and their connections with the NUS. This inquiry was a response to allegations about the student movement which were circulating within the Conservative Party. The complaints usually alleged either that the student movement was the last closed shop (rejected by Mrs Thatcher in 1985), or that we did little of real value, instead subverting democracy and civilization throughout the Western world.

That was two years ago, and the NUS had been expecting an attack from the Government for some time. Ever since the NUS was widely credited with forcing the first ever U-turn on the Thatcher Government, when Sir Keith Joseph had to drop his plans for contributory tuition fees in 1984, vengeance had been expected. Two years later, student protests saved £30 million of welfare benefit entitlement for students which would otherwise have been lost in the Social Security changes introduced by Norman Fowler. These, and the other victories the student movement has enjoyed, have been good for students, but have done nothing to endear the NUS to the Government.

The inquiry into student unions and the NUS went ahead, exploring the nature of student union activity and the degree to which it could be described as "political". In the end, the results vindicated us, showing that most student unions spent less than 0.5 per cent of their income on "political" activity, even under the Government definition of "political".

The ferocity of the criticism of the student movement placed the NUS in a very difficult position. If we continued to defend vigorously the interests of students, this could bring us into further conflict with Government, thereby inviting its

wrath. Not to do so would make the organization incapable of protecting the interests of students and the wider education system. We had no real choice other than to continue doing our job to the best of our ability. This decision was put to the test before the inquiry had even taken root, with the Government's declaration of its intention to introduce student loans.

The NUS has run a high-profile campaign against the loans proposals quite unashamedly and, we believe, quite legitimately. Hardly anyone outside the Government supports the loans scheme — not the students, not the public, not the vice-chancellors or directors of colleges, nor the staff who work in them. Even the high street banks pulled out of the scheme under the weight of student pressure.

The Government has faced criticism in its own ranks in the House of Commons, and a full-scale revolt in the House of Lords, winning the vote there only by imposing a three-line whip. The legislation has not yet completed its passage through Parliament, and we are still a long way from seeing a loans scheme in place. One likely result of this battle will be a renewed focus on the future of the student movement. I suspect that we have been a little too effective for our own safety. So if, in the near future, we hear renewed rumblings about the subversive activities of student unions, remember this: it will have more to do with loans than loony leftism.

Looking back over my time in the NUS, I do not regret at all the decision to fight a hard-hitting campaign against student loans. If I regret anything, it is that, because of the necessity of responding to a series of initiatives which would reduce standards and opportunities in education, we have all become just a little conservative. Continually having to defend the status quo against alternatives which are even worse has meant that we have not had the space to challenge the essence of what is

essentially an inflexible and elitist education system.

Our education system fails most people at the age of 16, and is thereafter geared only to the needs of a small minority. Putting this right requires a reassessment of the purpose and structures of higher education in a way which the Education Reform Act completely failed to do. The NUS has started a programme called the Education Initiative, designed to promote debate around these fundamental questions.

My hope for the future is that those who come after me will always keep faith in their principles, and will develop the vision of how an open, vibrant and accessible education system could be.

Maeve Sherlock

I imagine the potential of a national organization with more than 850 student unions affiliated to it, thereby encompassing one and a half million students. Imagine how powerful the voice of those two million students could be. Imagine the variety of different issues those students are involved in and that their national body should be involved in. Imagine how damaging those students could be to any government that attacked them as effies at this one last.

It is a sad fact that the NUS does not come close to realizing this potential. It is not as powerful as it could be, it does not get involved in everything that students are involved in, and it most definitely does not have the present Government running scared as far as its education policy is concerned.

I am standing for president of the NUS because I want to see radical change. I want to see the NUS setting the agenda on educational issues, I want to see the NUS involving all students and, above all, I want to see the NUS as the strongest and most respected organization within the educational system.

My top priority next year, if



Politics across the table: "Cosmo" Hawkes (left) and Stephen Twigg campaigning in Liverpool this week

elected, will be student financial support. Over the past 10 years students have lost a variety of benefits, the grant has declined rapidly and now the Government is intent on introducing student loans. NUS response has simply not been good enough — "Loans Won't Work" sloganizing posters, leaflets and five national demonstrations in the last 18 months. It is a disgrace that the NUS has failed to come up with a positive alternative to the grants system.

Developing a vision of the education system, and in particular student financial support, will be an immediate priority for me if elected. But that will not be all. The loans campaign thereafter must involve every weapon in our armoury, and much more innovative ideas than we have seen so far. Demonstrations and occupations should play a prominent role and we should look at organizing a national student referendum, a national petition, many more publicity stunts and an open challenge to John MacGregor to debate the issue. If the Government persists, it should be a priority for the NUS to ensure that education and loans are a general election issue.

The success of the loans campaign, or indeed any of the NUS's campaigns, does not of course simply depend upon the tactics used within that campaign. For the NUS to achieve anything, it has to be seen to be properly representative of all students in Britain. As president of the NUS I would ensure that more work was done on student sport, entertainments, arts and music, and the development

and co-ordination of societies in student unions. We should be proud of what students achieve and we should organize national fund-raising events, national sporting events, national student festivals and so on to promote what we do. Only when the NUS does this will it have the respect of all students.

This would mean radical reform of the NUS, both structural and political. It is this issue of reform that is at the core of this year's presidential election. The choice is very simple — more of the same or a vibrant, innovative alternative. My main opponent is from an organization known as the National Organization of Labour Students (NOLS), an organization that could attract only 74 delegates to its annual conference, and whose members booed and hissed a prospective candidate for the NUS national executive because she said that, if elected, she would put the interests of students above the interests of NOLS, which has controlled the NUS for eight years.

I am a democratic socialist, and a strong supporter of the Labour Party. But I believe that the NUS should be controlled by students, not party political factions. The NUS should ensure that it involves all students. Then, and only then, will the NUS have the respect of all students. Then, and only then, will the NUS start to realize its enormous potential and become, without doubt, the strongest, most radical and most respected organization in the education system.

Richard 'Cosmo' Hawkes

Over recent years, the NUS has changed enormously. When the Union was first established in 1922, it was a club for the most privileged universities. Today the NUS represents one and a half million students in 850 colleges across the United Kingdom. Most of these students are in the further education sector. As we enter the 1990s a major challenge for the new NUS president is to adapt the union's work to meet the needs of a diverse student population.

The new decade presents students with a series of new issues and new challenges. Debates on education and training are moving very quickly. It is critically important that students' needs and interests are properly defended. That is why, this year, I have launched the NUS Education Initiative — the aim of which is to set out a vision of students' ideal education systems and a set of practical policy ideas for fulfilling that vision.

The number of young people who remain in education at the age of 16 is pathetically small. The system of higher education in the United Kingdom is scarred with elitism at every level. The present Government has set itself the objective of doubling the number in higher education over the next 25 years. This worthwhile and positive goal must be backed up by two things: a sizeable increase in public funding to ensure that the quality of education is not eroded, and an active commitment to equal opportunities policies.

Equality of opportunity is a fundamental principle for the

national union. The failures of our education system to involve people from working-class backgrounds is a national disgrace. In doubling the numbers of students in higher education, we need policies that target those groups which are under-represented in the present system.

Sadly, the present Government's loans proposals will make a bad system far worse. The deterrent effects of loans are well documented. They would be compounded by any moves to charge home students all or part of the costs of tuition. A serious commitment to widening access requires an investment in education from the ages of 16 to 19, including the provision of grants for further education and sixth-form students.

Increasingly, decisions relating to education policy are being taken at a European level. As the process of European integration accelerates, it is of critical importance that students' interests are represented in Europe. The NUS is in a strong position to encourage the development of a European union of students to represent students from the Urals to the Atlantic. We have a responsibility to give effective support to the newly emerging democratic student organizations of Eastern Europe as well as improving our ties with student representatives in Western Europe.

The NUS has been criticized as "too political". For me it is a source of pride that the NUS does work on subjects such as Southern Africa or lesbian and gay rights. As long as there is injustice anywhere in the world it will be not only our right to work against it — it will be our duty.

Injustice is not something which stops at the English Channel. Our society — including the education system — is plagued by prejudice, intolerance and discrimination. If the NUS is to be able to represent all students, it must play an active role in combating such discrimination. My first contact with the NUS was as a first-year student involved in my Lesbian and Gay Society. It is a sad truth that colleges and student unions are not immune to the bigotry and prejudice that are directed at lesbians and gay men in our society. The NUS has a responsibility to foster an atmosphere in colleges that respects difference and encourages equality of opportunity.

Labour is moving further and further ahead in the national opinion polls. In this year's elections to the NUS National Executive, students have a clear choice. By voting for me and the other Labour candidates, students will be voting for a progressive national union with a clear vision of its ideal education system. As our country moves towards Labour, now is not the time for students to move towards the Right. That is why I expect to be NUS president in the year ahead.

Stephen Twigg

OUTINGS

THIS WEEKEND

THE NATIONAL SHIRE HORSE SHOW: A once-a-year opportunity to see the best of the four main breeds of heavy horse (the others being the Clydesdale, Suffolk Punch and Friesian). More than 200 horses can be seen in the show ring — mares, stallions, geldings, in hand, singles, pairs and four-horse teams. Also a show jumping competition. Judging begins at 8.30am, the Grand Parade at 3.45pm. East of England Showground, Peterborough. Today, 8am to 10pm, adult £5, child £2. After 1pm, adult £2.50, child £1.

CYCLES THE CYCLE AND OUTDOOR ACTIVITY SHOW: The only exhibition of its kind in the UK, with all the latest cycles from racers to fold-up "commuting" bikes. Also fitness demonstrations and tests for visitors, climbing competition, mountain biking and back-country displays. A 150th anniversary exhibition of vintage and veteran bikes, with riders in period costume. Olympia 2, Kensington. London W14. Today, tomorrow 10am-8pm. Adult £4, child £2.50.

ROTHSCHILD'S MANCHESTER EXHIBITION: Opening today, a preview of important Victorian pictures to be auctioned by Sotheby's in London in June. A wide range of work is on display, from the early genre to the pre-Raphaelites and the late Impressionists and Post-Impressionists. Manchester City Art Galleries, Mosley Square, Manchester. Today until April 1.

RABBIT CRAFT FAIR: 150 individual craftsmen and women — many demonstrating their skills — at this selling fair to be held under marquees on the riverside lawns. An extremely wide range of crafts to be seen from lacework, glass engraving, calligraphy and wrought iron work to puppet-making and fly-tying. Full refreshments throughout. Ferry service from Windsor Promenade. Windsor Racecourse, Windsor. Today, tomorrow 10.30am-5.30pm. Adult £1.50, accompanied child free.

WARPAINTS: Throughout the weekend, cosmetics experts from the BBC's make-up department demonstrate the materials and techniques used to achieve the Forces look. Visitors to the museum who wish to slip into the time warp can offer themselves as guinea-pigs. Imperial War Museum, Lambeth Road, London SE1.

Today, tomorrow, 10am-6pm. Adult £2.50, child £1.25.

ST PATRICK'S DAY CELEBRATIONS: You don't have to be Irish to celebrate Green Ribbon Day, but it helps. Among the many events taking place up and down the country are a traditional display of Irish dancing and folk music at Merton Abbey Mills, London SW19, today between noon and 4pm, free. Tomorrow at 3pm, a St Patrick's Day concert at Charing Cross Hospital, Fulham Road, London SW6 — with traditional music, step dancing, singing, poetry reading and a comedy sketch. Also a raffle and refreshments. Adult £5, child £1.50.

FINAL FLING: To bring the International Women's Festival to a close, an all-female cabaret followed by disco. Late bar until 1pm. Moseley Dance Centre, Moseley Road, Birmingham. Tonight from 7.30pm. Tickets £5, £8.

MONDAY

FOR A WEE COUNTRY: Opening day of a major architectural touring exhibition which marks the 150th anniversary of the Institute of Architects of Scotland, looking at past achievements, the future, the changing relationship between architect and client and the relevance of the Green movement. Parish Halls, Glasgow. Today until April 18. Further information, 031 229 7205.

CELEBRATION OF SCHOOLS MUSIC: Week of performances at Snape Maltings concert hall in which 1,000 young singers, instrumentalists, composers and dancers will take part. Concerts every night at 7pm. Snape Maltings Concert Hall, Aldeburgh, Suffolk. Tonight until Sat inclusive. Tickets adult £2, students £1. Box Office — open Mon to Sat 10am-4pm (0728 453543).

TUESDAY

THE THREAD OF LIFE: The Princess Royal opens the new Joseph Banks building at Kew today. Described as one of the most ambitious additions to the gardens this century, the single-storey building will house a multi-media exhibition illustrating mankind's use of plants, and the economic, botanical reference collections and library. The exhibition shows how a single plant product — cellulose — has been used for the past 6,000 years and how, with proper management, natural plant

products can continue to provide for our needs. Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew (01-940 1171). Daily 9.30am-dusk. Admission to exhibition included in admission to gardens, £1.

WORLD DJ CHAMPIONSHIPS: Aspiring DJs from all over the country compete for the world title. Wembley Arena, Wembley, Middlesex. Box office 01-900 1234. 7.30pm. Tickets £11.50-£21.50.

WEDNESDAY

DRUID CEREMONY OF THE SPRING EQUINOX: Ancient ritual performed at a "sacred" time when day and night are of equal length. Celebrating new beginnings, growth and light. Spectators welcome. Tower Hill, London EC3. 12 noon.

THE DOME OF DISCOVERY: New museum opens today in Glasgow on the south bank of the Clyde. The refurbished building will house a collection of historical and reconstructed artefacts, machines and experiments which exemplify pioneering scientific and technological discoveries in physics, engineering, astronomy, communications and computers. South Rotunda, Glasgow. Further information 041 330 4206.

WEDNESDAY EVENINGS WITH THE V&A: Series of spring evening events — lectures, recitals and private views — open to members of the V&A. Tonight "a Georgian evening" includes a lecture on Georgian silver by Jean Scofield, curator of silver to a City livery company, 7.15pm. Music played by Esterhazy String Quartet and an opportunity to view the Silver Galleries. Annual membership to the V&A is £18, nominal admission to each event £2. Further information 0494 816730.

Victoria and Albert Museum, South Kensington, London SW7.

THURSDAY

NATIONAL THEATRE PLATFORM: Steven Pimlot — director of *Sunday in the Park with George* — talks about directing plays, musicals and operas in general and in particular about the current production. The Lyttelton, National Theatre, South Bank, London SE1. Tickets £2.50. (Box Office 01-928 2252).

WILDLIFE TALK: Mike Onsted, head of development at Slimbridge, talks about saving endangered species. Cheese and wine included in the ticket price. The Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust, Arundel, West Sussex (0903 883355). 7.30pm. Tickets £2.50.

GETTING ANIMATED: Independent animator Karen Watson talks about her work with particular reference to the suitability of the medium when used to explore political issues such as the environment, consumerism, apartheid. Selection of films made by her contemporaries follows. Watershed Media Centre, Cannon's Road, Bristol. 7.30pm. Further information 0272 276444.

FRIDAY

THE VIDEO SHOW: All areas of home video, cam recorders, television and satellite television represented with most major companies present. Many demonstrations of the latest models plus opportunities to try them out, competitions, seminars. Most items in the show can be purchased. Westminster Exhibition Centre, Horticultural Halls, Graycoat and Everton Streets, London SW1. Today 10am-7pm. Sat 24, Sun 25 10am-6pm. Adult £3.50. Child under 14 £2.50.

ANTIQUE DISCOVERY DAY: Sotheby's experts value your antiques and accept items for auction. In aid of the London Hospital Theatre Wing Appeal. Fairlop Waters, Forest Road, Barlingside, Ilford, Essex. 10.30am-3.30pm.

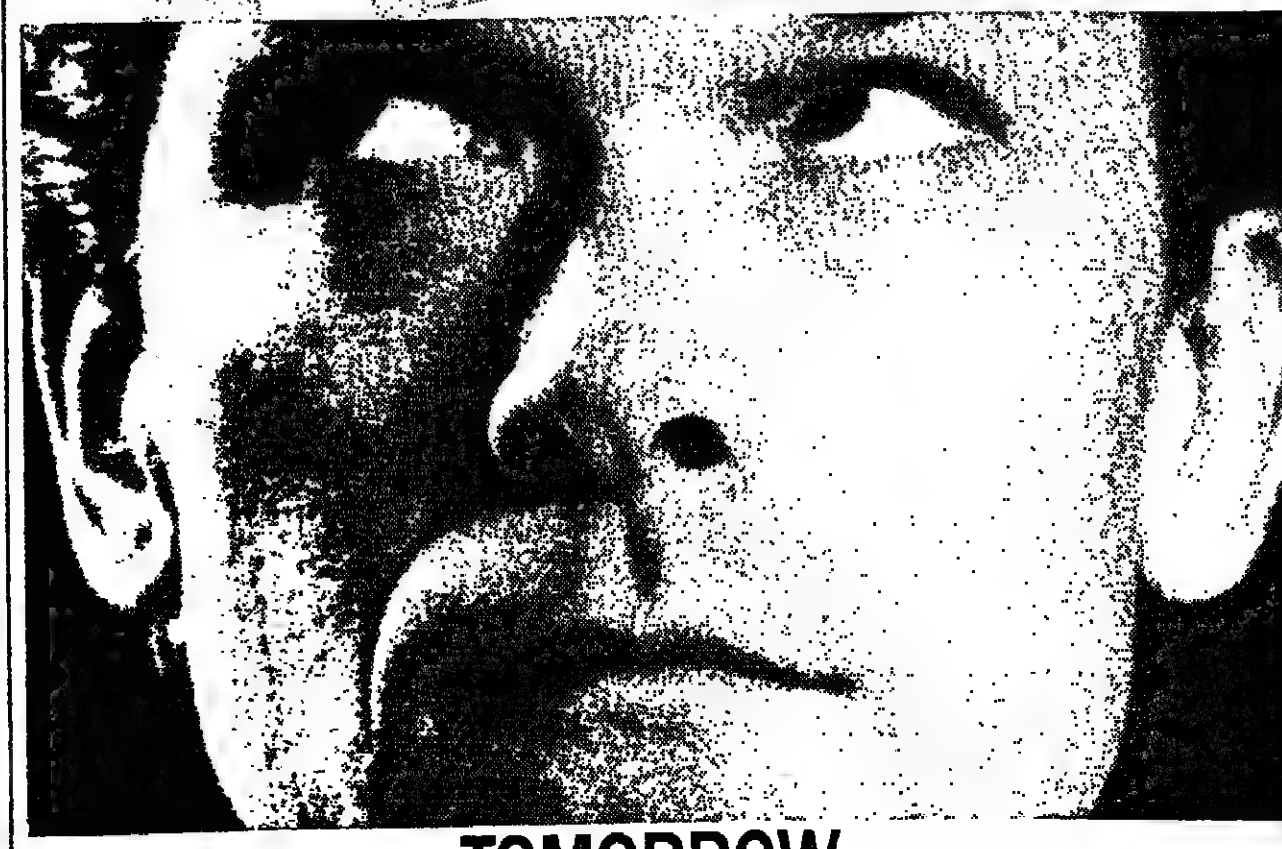
LITERATURE FESTIVAL: "Twenty-five years of writing — a celebration of poetry and prose" — attended by national and international writers who have been associated with the department of literature since the university opened in 1964. They include Ben Okri, Andrew Crozier, Jeremy Reed, Elaine Feinstein, Ken Smith and Rose Treman. Continuous readings from individual works plus open reading session tomorrow 2.30-4.30pm.

CHESHIRE COUNTY ANTIQUES FAIR: 30 dealers, beautiful gardens, refreshments, licensed bar. Arley Hall, near Northwich, Cheshire. Today, tomorrow 11am-5pm. Admission £2 includes catalogue.

Judy Froshang

THE SUNDAY TIMES

BRAIN TRAIN HOW TO IMPROVE YOUR BRAIN



TOMORROW

EATING OUT

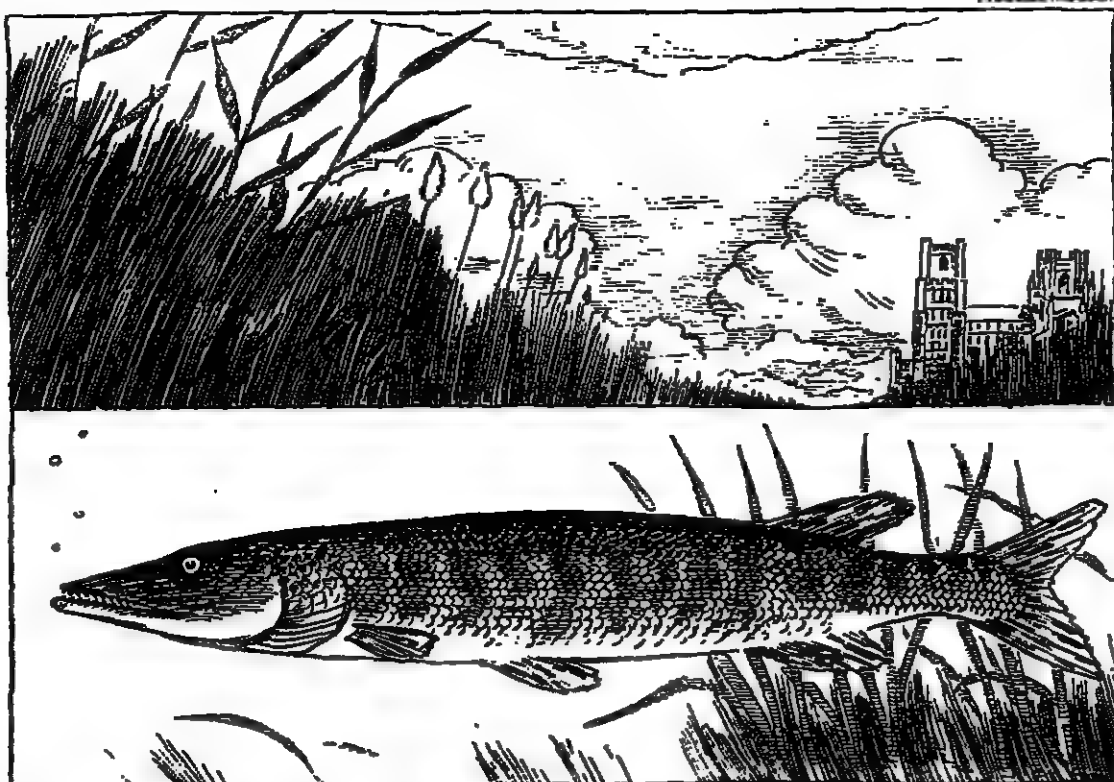
New ways for old

The Museum Street Cafe occupies a tiny room a hundred yards south of the British Museum. The room is an *ad hoc* conversion of what was presumably an office — there is an internal window to the corridor whereby it is approached, a corridor it shares with an outfit called Lobster: with a name like that almost certainly a design group, I'd have thought. But I wasn't sure, so went into Investigative Mode. I opened the phone book — Business & Services A-Z London postal area, shuffled it in alphabetical order. Unlisted. Anyway, the fact of its sharing premises means that the Museum Street Cafe doesn't meet the building requirements that must be satisfied if a liquor licence is to be granted. Unlicensed — unfortunately, given the poor provision of wine shops in this area called the Cashmere Quarter — there are scores of shops selling wares concocted from that delicacy, but there appear to be few shops selling wares concocted from grapes. Be warned, for the cooking at the Museum Street Cafe is wine-friendly; I drank fizzy water and believe — it's not an original belief — that I'd have enjoyed the food more had I drunk wine instead.

The food is simple, fairly robust, well flavoured, outdoorsy and belongs to the Age of the Enlightened Barbecue. I should point out that I didn't drink wine from choice: the establishment is punctilious about mentioning its lack of a licence on the phone. The place is, in all regards, thorough. The service is by a young woman who seems to have adopted the style of Greco (Juliette, not El) to restaurant waiting — fringes, black clothes, grave demeanour. She is painstaking, and turns out to be the baker too; the bread is as good as any in London. The night I dined there were three kinds, including a delicious and thickly fruit-free walnut bread.

The combination of baker and bread leads the place the air of some sort of new age health-food establishment. And the cooking is almost puritanical in its eschewal of richness — there are no sauces, and most of what isn't chargrilled is roast. This truncation of technique does not make for variety, indeed it seems to hint at a wilful minimalism. Further, there are only two choices at any stage of the meal: for instance soup or salad, fish or fowl, fruit or chocolate. Within these marked limits, things are fine. The food, as I say, may be simple but it's not thick. It takes some skill to knock up decent dishes from such a

Jonathan Meades travels from the age of the barbecue near the British Museum through a time warp to Ely Cathedral



small palette. A soup of Jerusalem artichokes and garlic was light, smooth and pepped up only by some fried cubes of the tuber. A "mandarin" beef salad included slices of grilled meat, a couple of sorts of leaf, and one of those oddball dressings that occidental cooks dream up when playing at chinoiserie. It included ginger, chilli, garlic etc., and was perfectly pleasant but rather pointless — a well-made vinaigrette is preferable, and doesn't prompt the thought that the same dish might be more confidently done in a Thai restaurant.

Both main courses were served with the same accompaniments — lentils, as usual, and green beans; these were lightly and savourily dressed. Salmon was roast, and well this side of dry.

Chicken — inevitably *maize fed* — was grilled and slightly burnt. The cheeses are English, the one sweet was a dish of three chocolate preparations — cake, mousse and shortbread.

The cake and the mousse were

good. The bill was £44, including a largeish tip for the diligent and efficient waiting. This is a calm and recently charming restaurant which may deal in newly fashionable clichés, but at least does them with some aplomb.

The Old Fire Engine House is as close to Ely Cathedral as the Museum Street Cafe is to the BM. There are no clichés here, but that doesn't mean to say that the cooking (a very different sort of cooking) is better.

Indeed it might be improved by a few new-fangled ideas from the

THE MUSEUM STREET CAFE
★★★★★
47 Museum Street, London WC1 (01-405 3211)
Lunch and dinner Mon-Fri, £44 (without wine — unlicensed), no credit cards.
THE OLD FIRE ENGINE HOUSE
★★★★★
25 St Mary's Street, Ely, Cambridgeshire (0353 662582)
Lunch every day, dinner Mon to Sat, £40, no credit cards.

fleshpots of southern Bloomsbury. But old ways die hard in the Fens — it has, for instance, been a tradition since the days of Hereward The Wake that four-wheel-drive Suzukis loaded with guys in martial camouflage singing ancient Kenny Rogers songs should take blind bends at 70mph, and that the inmates should gesticulate obscenely to the vehicles that scatter from their path.

The old ways at The Old Fire Engine House are not to be dismissed or, at least, questioned because they are old, but because they don't make the best of the produce.

This is a place that goes to some trouble to obtain, for instance, fish from the terrifying rivers and canals of the Fens, but which doesn't prepare them as well as it might. Smoked eel from Welney, i.e. from the 20-mile-long dead-straight nightmarish called the Old Bedford River, is served on underdone toast. And pike is overcooked with a rather ineptly made lemon and cream sauce; this was the first fish pike I'd eaten, and it was markedly

muddier in flavour than chalk-stream pike are.

Only old (and large) chalk-stream pike attain a similar strength of flavour; I suppose this might have been an ancient specimen — either way it should have been more thoroughly cleaned. Various other fish, notably zander, are to be had here from time to time, and they are probably worth trying in a spirit of curiosity rather than of gastronomic optimism.

I guess that the real problem with the cooking here is that its Englishness is unmitigated. Much of it is superior school-food: roast pork with crackling and a rather crude, lemon-flavoured stuffing, a pretty good vegetable soup based on an unusually sugary lamb stock, a roughish paté or form of potting meat called a *mince* which tasted the way store-cupboards of my childhood smelled — we knew a different gamut of spices in the Fifties, and this dish was a bit of a mangle.

The best items were a casserole of beef with Guinness and port, a honey but well-flavoured braise of rabbit, and a ham salad which almost demanded a bottle of salad cream beside it to complete a domestic still-life of 30 or so years ago.

But the appeal of The Old Fire Engine House is not really meant to be gastronomic. Its greatest asset, one that it has nurtured, is that it doesn't feel much like a restaurant of the late 20th century. It's fairly relaxed — you are offered "second" — the service is cheerful if rather forgetful, the lady in charge is vaguely school-matronish, the punters are the sort of people who are willing to incur stiff necks by gazing up at the cathedral's octagon, then contorting themselves to stare at mincestrons.

Everyone is well behaved, including children who can run about in the garden, which has high grey-brown brick walls, cherry trees and forsythia. The dining-rooms are handsomely furnished, airy, spacious. They are hung with the energetic works of local painters. I'm not sure if these count among the place's attractions.

I am, however, quite certain that the wines do. There are many of them and they are cheap. You can also drink Norfolk cider. If you value good intentions, handsome surroundings, a manor roof, and the possibility of a post-prandial tour-trip to Denver sluice above accurate cooking, this could be the one. About £40 for two.

DIRECTORY

Stare — up to a maximum of 10 — are for cooking rather than sweets and chandeliers. Prices are for a three-course meal for two. They include an aperitif and modest wine in the case of French places, tea in the case of oriental ones and so on. Prices change; they usually go up. Dishes also may have changed — they are given only as an indication of the establishment's repertoire. I accept no responsibility for disappointments and claim no credit for happy surprises. Always phone first. J.M.

LOTHIAN

The Champagne Inn
10 Linton Road, Linton (050 883 4332/4333)
★★★★★
The ne plus ultra of the steak house. The meat is "grown" by the owners but is, sometimes, curiously cooked. The gravadax is the best in Lothian. The service is friendly, attentive. A genuine caddy and one that is worth risking if you can afford £100.

Le Potager
100 Linton Road, Linton (050 843214)
★★★★★
No choice "main" in an 18th-century art deco building. The cooking is pretty good but tends towards the heavy. Excellent pigeon, for instance, is served with lentils and a creamy sauce and creamy potato gratin. Service, by the proprietor whose wife cooks, is not especially hurried. Good wines at good prices, indeed the whole operation is very reasonable in that regard. £40-£50.

MAYFAIR

Morton's
28 Berkeley Square, London W1 (01-493 0863)
★★★★★
A formerly tough club which has cleaned up its act. The bar is wharfed out of Manhattan, the dining-room is more or less True Brit — and it has a balcony which overlooks the square. This is one of the finest sites in London to lunch in. Some of the very best British cooking is notable — particularly the fish which must be the best ever. Dishes short wine list and notably reasonable prices. £45.

Le Gavroche
43 Upper Brook Street, London W1 (01-406 0881)
★★★★★
The various reputations are justified. The rather ancient regime most copyists are outstanding: the dishes of food is massive and comforting. The service is marvellous and there is an awful lot of it. The prices, especially of the wines, are high. The basement dining-room is a shrine both to the Roux brothers and to the very best of French cooking. The food is superb, the service is superb, the atmosphere is superb. The bar is superb. The wine list is superb. The whole operation is superb. The price is superb. The whole operation is superb. The price is superb.

might just get out for £65 to £70. In the evening £140 is nearer the mark.

Mimosa
38 Charles Street, London W1 (01-498 2443)
★★★★★
Smart, expensive and tolerably formal. Japanese restaurant whose food, despite its endlessly fussy appearance, is good. Fine fondant, superbly cooked salmon, broths of green tea and sour plums, tea flavoured ice-cream. £70.

No No
29 Maddox Street, London W1 (01-498 1220)
★★★★★
A truly ground regionally eclectic Chinese cooking in smooth surroundings. The fried lamb with ginger is nice and the dish called chicken soup is worth trying. £65.

NEW FOREST

Morag's Arms
Palace Lane, Basingstoke, Hampshire (0253 512324)
★★★★★
Not quite what you expect in a Fully Accredited Beauty Spot. This is a good hotel with a highly promising restaurant which serves such places as to go in for. John Mann's cooking is polished, and, in the case of his fish dishes, really excellent: salmon with delicate sauce, smoked salmon and crab tart. Vegetables are often inspired and the sweets are nice. However, both duck and guinea-fowl were pretty flavourless; maybe a new recipe is called for. Fine selection of wines including numerous half bottles. Good natured and well informed service. £70.

Chewton Glen
Christchurch Road, New Milton, Hampshire (0425 273341)
★★★★★
This is the luxury hotel. Despite a rather unpromising setting in the sprawl of outer Bournemouth it sets the standard for all British "country house" hotels. The service is astonishing: there is always someone on hand, everyone is smiling, the place works like a well-oiled machine. Yet there is nothing impersonal about it. The cooking is luxury hotel stuff but done with a flair and taste that is rare. Excellent: manchester, manchester and butter sauce; vegetables of fennel, maitre d'oeil and sprouts; sweetbreads with vinegar sauce; manchester, manchester and butter sauce; vegetables of fennel, maitre d'oeil and sprouts; sweetbreads with vinegar sauce.

The Three Lions
★★★★★
Stuck in near Farnborough, Hampshire (0425 52488)
Nicholas Rutland-Stuart cooks game as well as anyone in Britain: roasts with mace sauce, pheasant and pigeon with pepper sauce. Also: grain of smoked haddock, a variety of top-notch fish, soups, sweetbreads and kidneys with a wine sauce. In short, I would personally rather have a pair of golden cobs for my £1.29 than six ounces of pallid embryos.

With potatoes the market-makers manage to have it both ways. Big ones sell at a premium price as bakers, even when their variety is normally good for baking. Small ones, which not so long ago would have been chucked out for pigswill, become babies. For baby potatoes read "undersized".

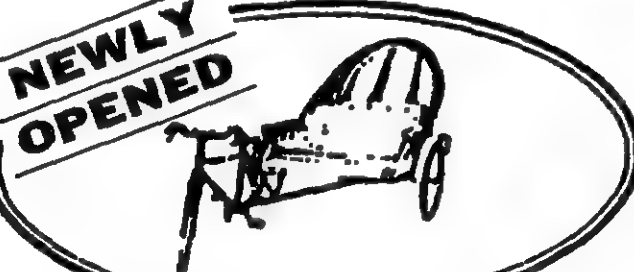
Marks & Spencer, unlike some supermarkets, does not sell "baby potatoes" as such, but it does currently offer "baby new" Egyptian King Edwards at £1.45 for 10 pounds. Similarly packed and graded "new" Egyptian King Edwards of rather more generous proportions (still not big) are 85p for two pounds. That makes "baby new" potatoes two and a quarter times the price of standard — and King Edwards, a maincrop variety, is not one that is traditionally used for "new" potatoes anyway. These Egyptian impostors have none of the flavour one would expect from new potatoes of the early varieties like Jersey Royals, Delft, York, Arran Pilot or Maris Bard.

M&S says it is a trade secret how it gets its baby vegetables — though the current creche seems to be Spain. In most cases, though, it is something one could do at home.

The seedmen Thomson and Morgan lists two mini-cauliflowers, Grant and Predominant, and recommends Suko baby carrots, which grow to about 2 1/2 inches, even for window boxes or tubs. Cortina is a slim, early-harvesting leek. Cricket-ball sized cabbages suitable for individual portions can be produced by planting the variety Minicole, eight inches apart, and for mini-parsnips, I am told, just sow a variety such as Lancer thickly.

RESTAURANT AND CATERING GUIDE

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FOOD

Robin Young puts the argument for eating baby vegetables, whatever the cost

A less than modest proposal

MARKS & SPENCER



savory I could have had for possibly half the price.

It is the same with baby cauliflowers. These, too, are fully mature vegetables, but they weigh less than a fifth of a traditional large head. Dwarf, I suppose, is not a favoured description nowadays, but these are really cauliflowers of limited stature, rather than babies. Marks & Spencer's price for two baby cauliflowers, anyway, is £1.45, while this week ordinary cauliflowers more than twice the size of the two babies put together were selling at 99p.

Courgettes, as you can tell by their name, are supposed to be miniatures anyway. For most varieties the recommended size is three to four inches, whereas some in the shops make it to an overweight nine inches or even more. Baby courgettes are scarcely an inch long and but a fraction of the diameter of the

standard vegetable. At present they are £1.45 for seven ounces, whereas ordinary courgettes with, I thought, more colour and flavour, are only £1.25 a pound. I thought the babies looked and tasted better in salads. I preferred full size for serving hot, whether whole or sliced.

Baby carrots I would call small rather than baby. They are certainly larger than the first fingerlings pulled from the garden in spring, and of course they do not have the distinctive flavour of new carrots for 10. Still, they sell at £1.35 for 10 ounces, while M & S's standard carrots are a mere 49p a pound.

I could not find baby parsnips in Marks & Spencer last week, but those at Tesco were mature in age and at least adolescent in size. They sold in packs at 55p a pound, while their bigger brethren were 39p a pound loose. Among root

THE TIMES COOK

A celebration of the spud

Be it ever so humble, or new and exotic, the potato is the most adaptable of vegetables, Frances Bissell writes

No apologies for celebrating the potato today. St Patrick's Day. I love this democratic vegetable which first set sail from the New World — from the port of Cartagena on the Spanish Main, to be exact — in the middle of the 16th century. Although ideally suited to a northern European climate, as it was to the Andes, the potato took at least 200 years to catch on. Once its qualities were appreciated, however, it quickly became a staple. Today there are many varieties of potatoes, numbering probably in the thousands rather than the hundreds, growing around the world, particularly in the Andean countries and in the British Isles. Looking at potatoes in Colombia, where a whole row of bins in the supermarket is given over to different varieties and sizes, I was interested to learn that experiments are being carried out on crossing the Colombian *papa criolla* with a Scottish strain of potato.

Although it is possible to track down exotic and unusual potatoes in the shops, and it is, of course, possible to grow your own, the likelihood is that you will have little to choose from in the shops. This is hardly surprising when you consider that only five varieties go to make up about 50 per cent of commercially grown potatoes not destined for the crisp packet. These are: Maris Piper, a main crop potato, usually described as a good all-rounder, suitable for baking, boiling, mashing and roasting; Estima, a second early — that is, harvested in July and August but with good keeping qualities, even into the spring; Wilja, a second early and, like Estima, suitable for most cooking methods, but this one is particularly good for chips; Pentland Squire, a main crop potato with a floury texture that makes it suitable for baking; and Cara, a relatively new variety of main crop potato, good for baking but suitable for all cooking methods, like the King Edward in size and colouring, with white skin, pink around the eyes.

Asperges (also known as La Ratte and Cornichon), Belle de Fontenay, Bintje, Charlotte, Désirée, Elvira, Epicure, Pink Fir Apple and Roseval are varieties to consider if you want to serve more unusual potatoes. These varieties have plenty of flavour, firm, waxy texture and good colour, and are excellent in salads. Occasionally it is possible to find some of the "designer" potatoes in supermarkets. Unless you are buying potatoes for immediate use, store them in a brown paper bag in a cool, dry, dark place, not in the polythene bag in which they are usually sold. Exposure to light will cause the potatoes to turn green, which indicates that the toxin solanine is forming under the skin; green potatoes should not be eaten.

Compatible might be a better word than democratic to describe the potato. It is so thoroughly adaptable that it is suited to the homeliest dishes as well as the grandest. Caviare and *foie gras* are current favourites in the restaurant world for putting with potatoes; the first served with a baked potato, the second thinly sliced and layered with thinly sliced potatoes and baked into a rich "gâteau".

Today I have looked to the homelier dishes, many from Ireland, where potatoes make a good foil to a meat stew or else out the leftovers. The first, though, is something of a show-off recipe, to be undertaken when you have plenty of time and patience. It is good with grilled fish or meat but really quite fine enough to stand on its own.

Potato, Parmesan and leek strudel (Serves 6)
3oz/85g flaked almonds
2oz/60g ground almonds
6-8oz/170-230g butter
1/2lb/340g leeks, white part only
1/2pt/280ml milk
1 bay leaf
2 cloves
1 1/2lb/680g potatoes
salt
pepper
1/2lb/110g freshly grated Parmesan
4 sheets filo or strudel dough

Separately fry the flaked and ground almonds in a little of the butter, and put to one side to cool. The flakes should be crisp and golden, not brown. Peel, trim and thinly slice the leeks. Wash thoroughly to remove any grit, shake excess water from them, and cook until just tender in the milk, with the bay leaf and cloves, added.

Drain the leeks and put to one side. Reserve the milk and discard the bay leaf and cloves. Peel and boil the potatoes in lightly salted water. Drain and mash them with a little of the milk in which the leeks were cooked and some more of the butter. Season lightly with salt and pepper, and stir in 1oz/30g of the Parmesan and the cooked leeks.

To assemble the dish, liberally brush each sheet of dough with melted butter. Lay one sheet on top of the other and then scatter the flaked almonds, ground almonds and 2oz/60g of Parmesan over the whole surface. Lay the remaining two buttered sheets on top. Spoon the mashed potato in an even line about 2in/5cm in from one edge of the pastry. Roll up carefully, and transfer to a buttered, floured baking sheet, curving it slightly to fit if necessary. Brush the top with the remaining melted butter, sprinkle with Parmesan, and place in the top half of a pre-heated oven at 180°C/350°F/gas 4 for about 40 minutes until golden brown.



Shepherd's pie and cottage pie (Serves 6)

Using minced lamb for the first and minced beef for the second, these are excellent dishes for using up the remains of a large joint, although they can be made from scratch with raw minced meat. Grated cheese, egg yolks, herbs, cream, spring onions are some of the things which can be added to the mashed potato topping for variety.

1 medium onion, peeled and finely chopped
1tbsp olive oil
1 1/2tbsp/680g minced lamb or beef (cooked)
1/2pt/140ml meat stock or gravy
1-2tbsp port or red vermouth
1tbsp soy sauce or Worcestershire sauce
pinch of ground mace or nutmeg
pinch of ground allspice, optional
pinch of chopped fresh rosemary or thyme

1tbsp finely chopped parsley or chives
salt
pepper
1 1/2lb/680g mashed potatoes (mashed with a little olive oil while still hot)

Fry the onion in the olive oil until light brown. Mix with the meat, liquid, spices, herbs and seasoning, and spoon the mixture into an ovenproof dish. Spread the mashed potatoes over the top, and score the surface in line with a fork. Bake for 40 to 45 minutes in the top half of the oven, pre-heated to 180°C/350°F/gas 4.

Potato and bacon soup (Serves 4)
1/2lb/110g smoked or green streaky bacon
1lb/455g potatoes
1 onion
1 1/2pt/850ml stock
1/2pt/140ml single cream

Remove the rind, and cut the bacon into matchsticks. Put it in a heavy saucepan, and cook gently until the fat is rendered. Peel, quarter and dice the potatoes, and cook them in the bacon fat. Peel and thinly slice the onion, and add this to the pan. Cook both vegetables without browning for eight to 10 minutes. Pour on the stock, bring to the boil, and simmer, covered for 45 minutes. Blend, process or rub through a sieve, or leave it as it is according to how you prefer the consistency. Stir in the cream, bring back to the boil, and season to taste. Stir in the parsley and serve. I particularly like this soup with thick slices of hot buttered toast.

Irish stew (Serves 6)
The classic proportions for this

traditional dish are half as much onions as meat and twice as much potato
2lb/900g middle or best end of neck chops or 1 1/2lb/680g boneless stewing lamb
1/2lb/340g onions, peeled and thinly sliced
3lb/1.35kg potatoes, peeled and sliced
1 bay leaf
1 sprig thyme
salt
pepper
water
1tbsp chopped parsley

Remove as much fat as possible from the meat. In an earthenware or similar ovenproof casserole, build up layers of potato, meat and onion, seasoning lightly and finishing with a layer of potatoes. Tuck in the bay leaf and thyme, and pour in 1/4-1/2pt/140-280ml water, enough to stop the contents burning in the initial stages. Cover and cook in a preheated oven, 170°C/325°F/gas 3 for two and a half to three hours.

Hunter's pie (Serves 4)
1oz/30g butter
1 1/2lb/680g mashed potatoes
salt
pepper
4 or 8 cooked lamb chops or cutlets
1/2pt/200ml lamb stock or gravy from a roast

Butter a pie dish, and spoon in about two-thirds of the mashed potato, smoothing it with the back of the spoon to line the dish. Lightly salt and pepper. Arrange the chops on top, and cover with the rest of the mashed potatoes. Bake in the top half of a preheated oven at 180°C/350°F/gas 4 for 35 to 40 minutes, until the potatoes are golden brown and the meat thoroughly re-heated. Bring the gravy to the boil, make a small hole in the potato crust, pour in the gravy, and serve the pie immediately.

Roasty or potato brand (Serves 4)
1/2lb/230g old potatoes, peeled
1/2pt/70ml water
1/2lb/230g mashed potatoes
1/2lb/230g plain flour
1tbsp baking powder
8oz/225g melted butter
salt
pepper

Grate the peeled potatoes into a bowl with the water. Stir with a fork, and then pour through a fine sieve into a bowl, pressing well down on the potatoes. Dry the grated potatoes on a clean tea towel, and mix with the mashed potatoes. Let the potato starch in the water settle, and carefully pour off the water. Mix the starch with the potatoes and the rest of the ingredients. Shape the mixture into a ball, and roll or pat it into a flat round cake. Make a cross on top, dividing the loaf into four. Bake on a greased floured baking sheet at 180°C/350°F/gas 4 for 40 to 45 minutes. Serve hot, pulled into four pieces, split and spread with butter.

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DRINK

Popping a cork at the Budget

If Mr John Major's first Budget is a tough one, as some City folk are hoping, then drinkers will certainly be in his sights on Tuesday.

Our politicians have long tried to argue that Britain is, and always will be, a beer-producing and drinking nation. Wine, they maintain, is a luxury foreign beverage and should be taxed to the hilt. As for spirits, forget about our own sizable whisky and gin industries: everyone knows how dangerous high-strength alcohol can be. Thankfully, Britain's entry into the European Community toned down this unbalanced viewpoint and reduced our over-taxation of wine. Brussels insisted upon a Community-pegged ratio between wine and beer duty of roughly three to one, which is what we still have.

Wine may still be viewed as a luxury item by Westminster but the EC directive, coupled with our ailing beer trade, has ensured that duty increases over the past five years have been minimal.

There were no increases last year, just a few pence more on wine, sherry and port in 1988, and no increases on either wine or spirits in '87 and '86: 1985 was the last year that table wine, fortified wine and spirits all had duty increases, and even then the steepest rise was just 9p on spirits duty. Apart from pegging wine duty to that on beer, the EC

produced an even happier notion for Britain's drinkers a few years ago: harmonization. This meant that Brussels expected Britain's exorbitantly high duties on wine and spirits to be harmonized with the minimal duties levied elsewhere in Europe, leading to a hefty drop, we all thought. But such Brussels co-operation did not last long, and the wretched "approximation" rapidly replaced harmonization. Britain's Chancellor would continue to fill their coffers with millions of pounds brought in from the Excise duty and VAT charged on wine and spirits but, in order to show what good Europeans we really were, they would gradually be "approximated" to those of other EC countries. Given the static duty rate, I take this to mean that we will wait for the rest of Europe's duty levels to catch up with ours.

Mrs Thatcher and, presumably, Mr Major are very keen on allowing "market forces" to bring about any changes that are deemed necessary. However, it is not at all clear why this Government will jump after December 31 1992, when we enter a free European market. Currently there is nothing to stop a British wine merchant travelling to France after this date, purchasing and paying the minuscule French duty on a container of wine, bringing it home and selling it at a vast profit. Clearly, the Government will have to come to some decision about this soon.

Apart from EC complications, the Chancellor has inflation to contend with, and will be acutely aware that an election is coming up in 1992. Wines and spirits are both included in the retail price index and any alterations

Champagne and other sparklers should be on the weekend shopping list for Budget beaters, Jane MacQuitty reports



upwards on their duty levels will add to the rate of inflation. Moreover, the drink industry is not in great shape at the moment. Even if drink duty remains the same on Tuesday, Mr Major may have to reconcile himself to a drop

in revenue from this sector in 1990. For wine and spirit traders 1989 was a dull trading year, culminating in a depressed Christmas season. With interest rates likely to rise again during 1990 and consumer spending squeezed even tighter, no one I have

spoken to recently in the booze business is predicting better results for 1990.

Yet for all the damage likely to be done to the Government's image by possibly encouraging inflation and flying in the face of the EC authorities, some City analysts are

WINE BUYS

wine with its strawberry jam scent and full-bodied, spicy taste, blessed with lots of bite and backbone, will be only at its best with food.

• **1989 Château de Pommery** Rosé The Victoria Wine Company £4.28. Majestic Wine Warehouses £4.19. With spring in the air and the sun shining, it is time again for pink wine drinking. This Bergerac Rose from Englishman Nick Ryman is one of the first pink '89s to arrive, and its deep rose pink colour an invigorating juicy-redcurrant fruit makes it a great spring warmer.

• **1988 Château de Pommery** Minervola Oodins £3.49. This Cuvée Spéciale, as the label states, makes better winter than summer drinking. But no matter for its warm, aromatic, spicy-inky style will go down well with most March palates.

• **1988 Château de Barbec** Wairose £3.95. Sweet dessert wine alternatives to Sauternes are pricier than they should be, but this Premières Côtes de Bordeaux offering with its full, rich, luscious marzipan fruit is a keenly priced alternative.

convinced that Mr Major should bite the bullet and deliver a hard, no-nonsense first Budget. In this health-conscious age, drink is a natural target for tough Chancellor. So anyone who, like me, takes a childish delight in cheating their coffers of a few pennies should visit their office licence today or on Monday.

As always, those who know that they will have to cater for a wedding or other large party soon would be wise to buy in their sparkling wine now. An increase of a few pennies per bottle may not sound much, but it adds up considerably if you have to buy a wine in bulk. Remember, too, that champagne and all sparkling wines, no doubt due to their "luxury" connotations, carry a higher rate of duty than table wine — £1.18 per bottle compared to table wine's 77p.

Majestic Wine Warehouses is sure that sparklers and champagne will be going up, and has just brought in a shipment of 1983 Blanquette de Limoux, Cuvée Réserve, as a Budget beater. This is a smart move, for I enjoyed its fresh, musky-fruity scent and taste, and priced at just £5.49 it is bound to sell out fast. Another good pre-Budget alternative to champagne is Charles de Fercs méthode champenoise sparklers, made just outside the Champagne region, that I wrote about a few weeks ago. The Flowers Blanc de Blancs Brut Réserve (£5.54 from Berkman Wine Cellars, 12 Brewery Road, London N7) is not dissimilar in style to the Blanquette de Limoux, but trade up to the bouncier, biscuity, champagne-like Brut Tradition (£6.54, Berkman Wine Cellars) and you will not be disappointed. If it has to be champagne, and for lots of weddings it does, then take advantage of

Oodins' offer of seven bottles of champagne for the price of six. This ensures that seven bottles of good, ordinary, non-vintage grandes marques champagnes, such as Laurent Perrier's well-made, apple, non-vintage Brut, work out at £11.90 per bottle, instead of the usual £13.99.

Low-price, Budget-beating wines are not really worth buying, as the savings are so small. On a £2 bottle of wine, you will be paying 77p in duty and 26p in VAT, making a total of £1.03 which, when taking into account the bottling, distribution and overhead costs, leaves precious little for the cost of the wine. The Wine Society calculated recently that, given these fixed costs, drinkers of £3 bottles of wine would actually be drinking wine worth five times the value if they traded up to a £5 bottle.

You may think these duty levels sound extortionate, but pity sherry and port drinkers. Sherry drinkers who purchase the better quality £3.69 bottles are donating £1.72 on every bottle in duty and VAT to the Chancellor. Similarly, port lovers donate an impressive £2.21 to his coffers on every £5.99 bottle they buy. However, the folk that I feel sorriest for are spirit drinkers, who hand over £4.73 in duty alone to the Chancellor every time they buy a 40 per cent bottle. This means that on a £7.50 bottle of whisky the Chancellor's share, if you take VAT into account too, is a staggering £6.71-worth. Come Tuesday, Mr Major may well need some Dutch courage to do his duty. I suggest Lagavulin's glorious Sixteen Year Old Islay malt whisky (Oodins £16.99 until April 2, The Victoria Wine Company £16.79). Its delicious, powerful, bold, pear-reeked and iodine-like flavours may well give him the steel and determination he needs.



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Epitomizing some of the more intelligent aspects of the 1960s iconoclasm: Miller, Bennett, Moore and Cook

Before, during and after

During his school-days at Radley, Peter Cook was named by the future England cricketer, Ted Dexter, for drinking cider at Henley Regatta; or so Ronald Bergan assures us. Perhaps there is an idea for a book here. It would consist of two chapters on life in the Radley classrooms and tuck-shops, followed by short biographies of Cook, Dexter, and two other old boys who have achieved distinction in, say, forestry and ballet.

That would not make a lot less publishing sense than the curious artefact Bergan has produced here. Back in 1960 Alan Bennett, Jonathan Miller, Dudley Moore and Peter Cook came together to create the revue *Beyond the Fringe*; but, with the possible exception of Cook himself, each has gone on to construct his own more substantial career. And will fans of "the priapic though repressed Dudley", as Bergan characteristically calls Moore, happily battle through longish accounts of the plays of "butcher's son Bennett", or the Shakespearean productions of "Jonathan Swift Miller"?

Still, one would not wish to underrate *Beyond the Fringe* itself. It may not have caused both "the death of traditional revue and civilization as we knew it", as Bergan quaintly suggests. But it epitomized the more intelligent aspects of 1960s iconoclasm; and at the very opening of that decade, before Cook founded *Private Eye*, or the television show *TV3* popularized the word satire, the revue was mocking Macmillan as a semile bimp, nostalgia for the Few as the mawkish "aftermath of war", and Civil Defence as a sustained fatuity.

Benedict Nightingale

BEYOND THE FRINGE
... and Beyond
By Ronald Bergan
Virgin, £12.95

It did so with verve and wit, too.

When they first met to discuss their coming collaboration, in a shabby Italian restaurant near Euston, the author-actors were no longer honing their comic skills as Oxbridge undergraduates. Miller was an aspiring neurophysiologist; Bennett was preparing an MA thesis on Richard II's retinue; Moore was a jazz musician; and Cook, then the best-known of the four, had contributed sketches to a West End revue. They were an oddly assorted lot, seem to have disliked each other at the start, and did not always get on well afterwards; but within a few months their late-night show was at the Edinburgh Festival, and picking up the plaudits that were to take it to London and Broadway.

Bergan has some nice anecdotes about the revue's production — Donald Albery thought the domineering Bennett should be fired and the project as a whole was sure to fail — but he could tell us rather more about the creation, development, performance, and even content of its sketches. As it is, the bulk of the book consists of biographies that he somehow contrives to make both too long and too skimpy. These are most interesting when he is considering his subjects' earlier years. For instance, we learn that Miller is Bergan's

great-nephew, Bennett considered going into the Church "not for any better reason than that I looked like a vicar", and the future screen star of "10" and *Arthur* was terrified of women, perhaps because he was (as Bergan breezily puts it) "the club-footed son of a railway electrician, brought up in an ugly housing estate in Dagenham".

The trouble comes when Bergan tries simultaneously to evoke and assess the four men's post-Fringe lives and accomplishments. Moore and Cook did their *Dad and Pate* act on television, after which one went to live in a pink house near Hollywood, and the other allowed his career to flounder on in London. Bennett wrote some good stuff about human loneliness for stage and television, and Miller turned from medicine to the classical theatre, with results varying from the thrilling to the meretricious. The latter two, in particular, deserve crisper, more incisive consideration than they receive here. Unfortunately, the impression one often gets is of an intelligent author hurriedly patching together a book for readers of the showbiz pages.

Yet that hardly excuses all the name-listing and name-dropping ("the role of Mrs Swabb was played by Patricia Hayes, everybody's favourite cleaning-woman") or the brash, saloon-bar prose. Bergan's is a world where shows open "in the glaring light of London's West End", the BBC "does a miniskirt and starts to swing with the times", and records sell "like condoms at an AIDS convention". Even a misconceived book could be more gracefully turned.

Two views of the sacred and profane

Anthony Quinton

A SATANIC AFFAIR
Salman Rushdie and the
Rage of Islam
By Malise Ruthven
Chatto & Windus, £14.95

Like most people, I observed the rumpus caused by Salman Rushdie's *Satanic Verses* from the cheaper seats at the back of the hall. It is a good thing to have someone correct the over-simplified assumptions which, in a semi-conscious way, we are likely to hold about the Muslim community in Britain and in the world as a whole. Malise Ruthven does not concern himself with adjudicating between the claims of freedom of expression and the right of protection of religious sensitivities. Instead, in this thoughtfully and well-informed book, he puts his readers in a position to approach the problem in a less ignorant way.

His first point is that the Muslims of Britain came here almost entirely from the subcontinent of India. The Muslims of that part of the world, 300 million in number, are the largest element in the world's total of about a billion. Two hundred million are Arabs of one sort or another. (Other groups, in descending order of size, are those of south-east Asia, of sub-Saharan Africa, Iran, and Turkey.) Each of these groups is different from the others and most are internally divided as well.

Secondly, Muslims take the Koran to be the literal word of God, ventriloquially conveyed through Mohammed. For them it is much more an incarnation of God in the world than the Prophet himself, who remains definitely human, even if closer to God than anyone else.

The Indian origin of British Muslims and the Muslim view of the nature of the Koran have implications which Malise Ruthven illuminatingly explores. He shows that the idea that the world's Muslims make up a homogeneous community, hierarchically submissive to some central authority, is entirely mistaken. In this religion there is no Pope, nor, really, a priesthood. Its adherents are divided in all sorts of ways. Arabs, whose language is that of the sacred, and not permissibly translatable, text, are more at ease in their faith than those who do not speak Arabic. The passionate reaction of British Muslims is in part due to that, in part to their understandable sense of being a

beleaguered minority in this country.

This sensitivity had been brought to a head not long before by the Honeyford incident, in which a Bradford headmaster had been forced from his post because of his reasonable objections to the absenteeism of Muslim pupils, and his less reasonable ones to the serving of ritually slaughtered meat. Muslim reaction to Rushdie's book was not spontaneous. It was incited and kept alive by the Central London Mosque, which aspires to spiritual authority over British Muslims, and which is sustained by Saudi Arabian money. Ruthven suggests that the issue was seized on as a move in the competition between Saudi Arabia and Iran for leadership in the Muslim world. An intensifying factor was the politics of India and Pakistan: in the former there was a general election in the offing, in the latter it served as a challenge to the secular-minded government of Benazir Bhutto.

Khomeini's call a year ago to the faithful to kill Rushdie led the Saudis, in Ruthven's words, to wash their hands of the matter in the face of this Iranian political opportunism. Its more general effect was to bring opprobrium on the Muslim world. (When an Egyptian zealot pronounced a similar *fatwa* against the Nobel Prize-winning novelist Nagib Mahfouz, incidentally, he was sent to prison).

The Muslims of Britain are still angry, having been stirred up by people with quite other interests than Rushdie's blasphemies. He does not escape criticism in the book, however. Brought up as a Muslim, he ought to have known that the book would give acute offence. But he could hardly have predicted it would lead to 21 violent deaths. Some whinnying self-righteous letters he wrote to Rajiv Gandhi are quoted. His book

has been banned in India, Pakistan, and South Africa, but not, apparently, in Iran.

There are several ironies in the situation. Rushdie and Khomeini are both hand-biters. Khomeini in the traditional way: after being given refuge in the West, he went home to launch a violent assault against it. Rushdie, more risibly, having bitten the hand of "Mrs Torture", then scuttled into the protective embrace of her police state. On his behalf Britain's tenuous diplomatic relations with Iran were broken, and incitement to murder him has been officially deplored.

British Muslims are the immigrant group most committed to Mrs Thatcher's ideals of family life and individual enterprise. Boxed in here by immigration laws, they feel more isolated than ever, their support from the British Left eroded. Ruthven argues that Muslim culture is still largely oral: in it language is seen as an instrument of power, not an object of cool, reflective contemplation. *A Satanic Affair* is calculated to raise the level of argument as the two colliding indignations continue to grind against each other.



Enter the cosmic joker

It is a growing phenomenon of current science fiction that it is having its concepts heftily rearranged in the manner of a pugilist's face: knockabout rather than spaced-out. The Universe is becoming a laughing matter instead of anti-matter. Comic irony has entered the soul of the genre in a way I cannot recall in all my addicited years.

So, to the top-selling ranks of humorists such as Douglas Adams and Terry Pratchett, let us welcome Mr Rankin, whose pop-oriented narrative sometimes reads like *The Sport* newspaper made credible, and who can yet turn the idea of solipsism inside out so convincingly that you wonder if the author is, in fact, dreaming the reader rather than the other way around.

The story takes in a resurrected Elvis Presley, Pope Joan, and a mass-murderous Dalai Lama, as

SCIENCE FICTION

Tom Hutchinson

ARMAGEDDON
The Musical
By Robert Rankin
Bloomsbury, £13.99

Rex Mundi starts working for Buddhavision and — escaping death by a thousand TV-edits — finds that the whole planet Earth may be an alien television show.

The book's structure could do with a more severe scaffolding, and it will go on about Brussels sprouts to an extent that suggests a fetish. But the guffaws are there, all right, in a novel which, in approaching the mysteries of existence, is laughing instead of weeping — but, so dim-witted is the hero, he hasn't

quite heard and understood the question.

● *Vampire*, by Christine Brooke-Rose (Corgi, £12.95). Beneath the puns — a man called Perry Stryker, "who sang Freud with sang-froid" — is a chilling alarm about the info-tech age, when the mega-computers, bloated with too many words, start to bite back. A one-note idea that is stylishly accomplished, and to be read at a go. (SPLUTTER). MESSAGE ENDS.

● *Angel Station*, by Walter Jon Williams (MacDonald/Orbis, £12.95). A spacewise crackler, with all the pavement street-jargon and then some, alive and well and living in the persons of Ubu Roy — courtesy of Alfred Garry — and his sister Beautiful Maria, trying to recover from bankruptcy after the suicide of their father. He fashioned his property from a clothing-rack of patched genes. Pell-mell pace, with poignant moments such as the death of an android mistress, and Dad's ghost haunting like Hamlet's Pa — but in hologram form.

● *Orbital Decay*, by Allen Steele (Century/Legend, £14.95). Frontier-town stuff, reminiscent of a high-tech Western, revolving around the great revolver of Olympus Station, the Skyvan, and the beamjacks such as Virgin Bruce who gather there. Heinlein would not have been displeased to be quoted in this debut context; it has that sort of grandeur.

● *TekWar*, by William Shatner (Bantam, £12.95). While acknowledging the help of writer Ron Goulart, Mr Shatner — Captain Kirk of *Star Trek* — was obviously determined to boldly go where none of his crew had gone before. The result "strides purposefully" over the clichés, as framed ex-cop, Jake Cardigan, is released from coma, and becomes a private eye. It says nothing that hasn't been said before, but it says it quite entertainingly. Jake has the makings of a TV hero, all right... to be played by William Shatner? As for me, I'll just watch the umpteenth re-run of the great original.

● *The Dark Door*, by Kate Wilhelm (Gollancz, £13.95). Science fiction's American doyenne re-introduces her husband-and-wife investigators, Charlie and Constance, unlocking an Old Dark House interface between earth and Somewhere Else that's igniting fires. A readable mix of Agatha Christie and *Close Encounters* and starring an alien with a death-wish.

Maud Gonne was a six-foot Englishwoman, good-looking, with red-gold hair, passionate energy, and something of a gift for charming those who she felt might be of use to her. Her mother died when she was young. Her father was a captain in the 17th Lancers, posted to the Curragh a year after the Fenian Rising of 1867. The young Maud first identified herself with the Irish republican cause about the time of her father's death, when she was 20. She claimed in her autobiography that before his death he had resigned from the Army to stand for Parliament as a Home Rule candidate, but this was wishful thinking.

A nationalism couched by

Maud Gonne was a remarkable and independent woman, but her contribution to Irish politics seems mostly of mythological significance. She has been described as Ireland's Joan of Arc and also as Cathleen ni Houlihan, the personification of nationalist Ireland. She played the title role in W.B. Yeats's play about Cathleen ni Houlihan, and no doubt this assisted her contemporaries to half-credit the notion that she was the woman promised in ancient legend,

possessed of magical powers and the strength to free Ireland from British rule. Yeats, himself an unrequited lover, called her first "a burning cloud", but his final poetic verdict has Maud Gonne as "the loveliest woman born/Out of the mouth of Plenty's horn", who had bartered that inheritance for "an old bellows full of angry wind" because she was cursed by "intellectual hatred".

Even allowing for Yeats' bitterness (he once proposed marriage,

Robert Nye

MAUD GONNE: IRELAND'S JOAN OF ARC
By Margaret Ward
Penguin, £8.99

first to Maud and then to her illegitimate daughter Iseult, and was turned down by both on the same day), this will strike as a disinterested reader of Margaret

Backbone of the nation

Hazel Leslie

FOR HOME AND COUNTRY: War, Peace and Rural Life as Seen Through the Pages of the WI Magazine 1919-1959
Compiled by Penny Kitchin
Ebury Press, £5.99

books urged her to take up bee-keeping or make extra pin-money with a knitting machine. The chair made from an apple barrel (1922), though an interesting idea, is obviously not for sitting on.

From very early on the WI made itself felt, pressing for improvements in village water supplies, rural transport and family health care and housing. With the Second World War it really came into its own. WI members threw them-

selves into the breach, welcoming evacuees, recycling old pots and pans for armaments, digging for victory, knitting balaclavas, renovating shabby clothes with hot bran (truly), and devising frugal yet nourishing recipes which, it was suggested, might be cooked in hayboxes to save fuel. They also preserved the nation's fruit crop by turning a large part of it into jam — an activity from which the WI's image has never recovered.

After the war the WI began to apply itself to environmental issues: chemicals in the countryside, preservation of ancient buildings, the Keep Britain Tidy campaign. In 1930 the magazine quoted C. E. M. Joad's aphorism: "It will be said of this generation that it found England a land of beauty and left it a land of beauty spots." Well at least, thanks to the WI, the beauty-spots now probably contain a litter bin.



"How did she expect to get between the rows?", a WI cartoon of 1928

Back to the USSR

Edward Buscombe

LITTLE VERA
By Maria Khmelik
Translated by Cathy Porter
Bloomsbury, £7.99

Are the Russians just like us? *Glasnost* has not made it possible for artists to tell the truth about Soviet society. Shall we now cover that 70 years of socialist engineering have produced a people whose problems are only too familiar to us in the West? Little Vera is the heroine of a hugely successful Soviet film which is here presented in novelized form. She lives with her parents in a cramped flat in a grimy industrial port, her father drinks, and is by turns quarrelsome and mandarin.

Vera thinks she might become a telephonist, but only because she can't think of anything else. She and her friends mooch around, listening to pop records and getting into fights at the local disco. Then drifts into an affair, and her boyfriend moves in with her family. In a drunken stupor her father attacks the boy. To keep her father out of prison Vera is forced to lie to the police about what happened. At the end the boy comes out of hospital and in a desultory sort of way the affair is resumed. Vera's father dies of a heart attack, and the last shot of the film is a slow track across the polluted landscape of Zhukovskiy.

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GRAFTON BOOKS

مكتبة

Since winning the Smarties Grand Prix in 1988 with a rather soppy book about a bear, Martin Waddell has been hot property as a supplier of texts for picture books. Last month saw no fewer than four turn up with his name on the title-page. Three of these were modish and insubstantial; but the fourth, *The Hidden House*, has altogether more distinction.

The text — which doesn't quite add up to a story — concerns three wooden dolls, hewn by an old man "to keep him company". Then the old man goes away and doesn't come back; and the three dolls sit quiet on their window sill while their home is engulfed by trees and bushes and spiders' webs. Eventually, though, rescuers arrive: a family with axes and ladders and paint-rollers. The house blooms with new life, and the wooden dolls become part of a family again.

The plainness of Martin Waddell's descriptions, broken only by occasional interjections, gives ample space for Angela Barrett's lavish pictorial accompaniment. She finds images that body

Out of the wood

CHILDREN

Brian Alderson

THE HIDDEN HOUSE
By Martin Waddell
Illustrated by Angela Barrett
Walker Books, £7.95

out the bare bones of the words — a sapling bursts through a scullery floor, the rescuing family walk into the book down a tunnelled hedge-row, the dolls themselves sit out their vigil impassive but alive. These sensitive, detailed, never pretentious pictures are a fine example of the illustrator's art.



Complementary: Angela Barrett's illustrations give body to the text

On the trail of the native American

CRIME

Marcel Berlins

TALKING GOD
By Tony Hillerman
Michael Joseph, £12.99



Casting spells: Tony Hillerman

Navajo Indian rises are not what the English reader necessarily wants to know a great deal about, and it is a measure of Hillerman's skill that he manages to tell us a lot without being too boring. His sixth book featuring the Navajo detectives Joe Leaphorn and Jim Chee shows no signs of exhaustion with the theme. This time, though, some of the action shifts to Washington DC, where Chee is on the trail of an Indian rights militant museum curator; Leaphorn is seeking the identity of a man killed in the desert. Their cases expand and enmesh, casting spells on characters and readers alike.

● *The Girl With The Red Suspenders*, by Barbara Whitehead (Constable, £11.95). Sensitive widower Dave Smart struggles on body of snanning social worker, respectably dressed but for the accessory of the title. A missing twin brother and an old friend of the family hold the clues, followed with increasing emotional commitment by the sympathetic Smart and young sidekick Jenny Wren, revealing along the way the seamy, ugly side of tourist life.

● *Stalking the Angel*, by Robert Crais (Piatkus, £11.95). Second appearance of wise-cracking Los Angeles private eye Elvis Cole does not disappoint. Unpleasant big businessman hires Cole to find Japanese manuscript and guard his family; but his teenage daughter vanishes at a reception in his

action, but Asch is not a happy person.

● *A Lesson in Dying*, by Anne Cleaves (Mysterious Press, £11.95). Old-fashioned in the best sense: a much disliked headmaster found hanging in the schoolyard, and a small Northumbrian community, full of people with disparate homicidal motives, gradually revealing its nasty secrets, but not before more dying. A good debut for Inspector Stephen Ramsey: quiet, puzzled, very human.

● *The Touch of a Vanished Hand*, by Anthony Quogan (Macmillan, £10.95). Amiable playwright-cum-Matthew Prior, asked to complete a musical started by recently dead former popstar, discovers dark doings in the late composer's life. Strange happenings in Canadian theatre-town devoted to J. M. Barrie has roots in Sixties Britain. Superior writing and plotting, lashings of humour, altogether an excellent follow up to last year's impressive first-timer.

● *The Body Politic*, by Catherine Aird (Macmillan, £10.95). Mining expert returns unexpectedly from Middle East and promptly dies; a Tory MP receives oral and written death threats; a historical society unearths re-enacted a Civil War battle. Aird's delicious concoctions are never less than elegant and mischievously sharp; and she manipulates her often bizarre plots and people with confidence.

In search of an England that never was

James Wood

ENGLAND AND ENGLISHNESS
Ideas of Nationhood in English Poetry 1688-1900
By John Lucas
The Hogarth Press, £18

When you are rooted in a place, G. K. Chesterton once wrote, that place disappears. You take as given what should perhaps only be taken as a gift; you assume as inherited that which should be invented. Nationhood becomes an attribute rather than an activity. English literature — and in particular English poetry — is full of instances of such "disappearance": again and again, poets define England at the expense of one group or another, or idealize as pastoral that which is in reality far from ideal. There is a direct link between such poets of the early 18th century and the nostalgic yearning of the Georgians of the early 20th.

Chesterton (who was in fact discussing Kipling) took this disappearance of England to be a good thing — he was, in turn, part of this very tradition of disappearance, with his belief in a medieval Merrie England, and his romantic veneration of the decency of the little rural man. John Lucas, unsurprisingly, takes this disappearance to be a bad thing, and is himself part of a newer tradition of academic dissent rooted in the work of the critic Raymond Williams. This is, indeed, part of the problem with Lucas's unsatisfactory book: Williams' *The Country and the City* is forever breathing down the neck of Lucas's slighter but derivative work. This particular territory is so well ploughed that all Professor Lucas can do is fall into the predictable furrows.

The methodology is tried and tested. You find out what version of England your selected poet (Clare, Gray, Wordsworth, whoever) is offering. You note that this version is an idealization (usually a pastoral one) of harsh realities: where are the agricultural workers? Where are the references to Enclosures? And then, the inevitable conclusion — this poet's version of England is exclusive not inclusive, this poet is appropriating an authority — the authority to speak of and for England — which he does not in fact possess. When Raymond Williams first did this in a previous Hogarth Press book, it was thrilling: he drew our attention to those parts of England which had disappeared, which had been made invisible. He gave a voice to the voiceless. But John Lucas is far from thrilling: his methodology is borrowed, his insights merely bequeathed by better critics, his language as bare and banal as academic discourse can be without actually erasing itself from the page. And there is a deeper problem still with his analyses of Goldsmith, Blake, Wordsworth, and Tennyson.

It is this: all writers who write about England offer a version of England; but this does not necessarily mean that all writers are addressing ideas of nationhood, or what it means to be English. In writing about nationality, one has to keep the focus tight, or the categories simply expand and fill with air. Of course all English poetry is in some way to do with Englishness; but then all English poetry is also in some way to do with language. Much of Professor Lucas's book is an uninspired survey of the main themes of 18th- and 19th-century poetry, with Englishness forced into the argument to make the critique a little more exciting. To take one instance, Lucas writes of Wordsworth's rewriting of some of the poems in *The Lyrical Ballads*. Rightly, he stresses that this was part of Wordsworth's adjustment from an earlier radicalism to a later conservatism. "And so, whereas in *The Lyrical Ballads* he had thrown into radical doubt any reductive idea of a unitary image of the people and, by implication of England and Englishness," so Wordsworth's image of the people becomes, "by implication," his image of England and Englishness.

Similarly, Lucas discusses Arnold's poem *Dover Beach*, and points out (predictably enough) that Arnold lacks the authority he assumes, when he condemns the entire world as having "neither joy, nor love, nor light". Lucas takes this — again by implication — to be a dismissal of England, since clearly, *Dover Beach* is on some level a poem about England. But on what level? That is surely the interesting question, one which Lucas will not answer, because he is too busy assuming that Arnold's poem is about England on all levels. And yet Arnold's elegy *Thyrsis*, which directly links the loss of England with the loss of a friend and fellow poet (Arthur Clough), does not appear in this book. But this is a poem directly, rather than indirectly, about England and Englishness. In this dangerous area of writing about nationality and its representations, in which the poor critic is beset by all kinds of temptations, one cannot live on implication alone.

KS

nationalism consumed by hatred

nd's paperback study *Maudie: Ireland's Joan of Arc* as "or less true to the facts of the mythical case. Maud Gonne's intellectual hatred" was hatred of English. In old age, she liked to sit in a low chair so that she could bash the floor with her fist any time she said the word "land". She certainly campaigned less all her life on behalf of Ireland in Irish jails, but the implication here is that from the time of the Civil War this means

that she campaigned on behalf of Irishmen imprisoned by Irishmen. Her passions were straightforward, but her mind was not.

Margaret Ward tells an interesting story well on the whole, though I detected some discomfort in her attempts to make sense of Maud Gonne's political opinions later in life. She quotes, for example, an article which Maud Gonne wrote in 1938, entitled "Fascism or Communism", in which it was suggested that while Ireland might not "want

to be either Communist or Fascist" it would be a good thing if Ireland had the courage to "look at the good points where the two contrary systems agree". Margaret Ward's comment on this is: "In this article Maud reveals herself to be on the side of progress and so I prefer to think of her as a social democrat, whether or not she would have described herself in those terms." Since this social democrat is admitted in the next sentence to have been also anti-Semitic, and then

pro-German, and her lover Millevoje was an anti-Dreyfusard of the far right, I prefer not to think what other social democrats will reckon of Miss Ward's attempt to get Maud Gonne into bed with them.

Her politics were at best a decent commitment to the struggle of the poor and the oppressed. At worst they came out as curious rhetoric regarding Ireland as "the all-protecting mother" who had to be released from "the bondage of the foreigner" in order to "protect her children". Since, at the same time, Maud Gonne also confessed to years that she had an aversion to sex, I suspect that Sigmund Freud would have found her quite fascinating.

Obsessed by the past

FICTION

Henry Stanhope

I f one were given to literary predictions, one might tip Janice Elliott to win the Booker Prize one day — or become one of those who should-have-done-so-but-didn't-quite. This is not to say that she should have done so with *Life on the Nile* (Sceptre, £3.99), which, like the pyramids, looks flawed on close inspection. But it seems high enough above the desert to confirm that she is a writer to be reckoned with.

The central character is Mrs Charlotte Hamp, touring Egypt with husband Leo (a travel writer and amateur archaeologist) and a caravan of travelling companions. But their meanderings are only half the story. The sub-plot concerns her great-aunt Phoebe Duncan, the wife of a British colonial administrator, who was murdered in Egypt 60 years before. While others are browsing themselves beside the pool, Charlotte pores over her file of Phoebe's letters, obsessed with uncovering the truth behind her death.

Hal Douglas, and the frail, elderly Jew, Max Stiller, are surpassed only by the cameo of Pansy Duncan, Aunt Phoebe's "baby" daughter, now a sick recluse in a grubby room above a shop in the bazaar.

Istanbul, with its gleaming cupolas and silvery Bosphorus, provides the setting for Penelope Gilliatt's novel, *A Woman of Singular Occupation* (Penguin £4.99). The heroine in this case is Catherine Rochefaud, the musically gifted wife of a Vichy French diplomat, Jean-Pierre, from whom she is estranged by her own affiliation to de Gaulle.

No sooner has Catherine set foot in Istanbul (after getting out of Paris before the advancing Wehrmacht) than she starts an affair with a young banker whom she bumped into on the Orient Express. The intrigue, however, is by no means exclusively amorous. The undercurrents of war ripple through this antique central city, engulfing all in espionage and danger. This sounds like — and could very well become — a Hollywood film script. As a narrative it is somewhat over-cryptic. The love affair drifts rather than progresses, and the menace never quite materializes. Someone takes a pot shot at Catherine at a party and shatters her neighbour's wine glass as she ducks. But the sang-froid displayed suggests (but falls short of) a send-up. In another highly promising encounter, Catherine confirms to her husband that he has been cuckolded while thrashing him in a quiet game of draughts.

Nina Bayden's novel, *A Little Love, A Little Learning* (Virago, £4.99), is set not many years later than Signor Pavese's, in London during Coronation year. But any similarity between the two books ends there.

Narrated by Kate, one of three young sisters, this is the tale of a middle-class English doctor's household, whose serenity is shattered by the past when Aunt Hat, an old friend of the family, comes to stay.

Ms Bayden's characters remain creatures of fiction who rarely acquire a third dimension. She is, however, a polished storyteller, whose books have a beginning, a middle and an end. The result is a readable, intelligent (dare one say?) woman's novel whose transatlantic pace and style (even the names, like Boyd and Ellen, sound American) should guarantee her another global sell-out.

BOOKS NEXT WEEK

Bettelheim, Enright, Mary Wesley, Narayan, Ginzburg

There's a word for it...

THE NEW
PENGUIN
ENGLISH
DICTIONARY

THE
PENGUIN
POCKET
ENGLISH
DICTIONARY

LE MOT JUSTE
THE PENGUIN
DICTIONARY OF
FOREIGN TERMS
AND PHRASES

PENGUIN
THE AUTHORIZED
ROGET'S
THESAURUS
OF ENGLISH WORDS
AND PHRASES

THE
PENGUIN
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PENGUIN

ENTERTAINMENTS

Continued on
page 60

01-481 1920

THE SOUTH BANK CENTRE

ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL

Music Director Vladimir Ashkenazy

ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL

TUESDAY 20 MARCH 7.30 pm

Verdi ... Overture, La Forza del Destino

Mozart ... Clarinet Concerto in A, K.622

Dvorak ... Symphony No. 9 (New World)

Conductor Heiichi Ohyama

Soloist Emma Johnson

Sponsored by Westwicks Building Society

THURSDAY 22 MARCH 7.30 pm

Grieg ... Peer Gynt Suite

Rachmaninov ... Piano Concerto No. 2

Beethoven ... Symphony No. 5

Conductor John Mauceri

Soloist Aleksai Saitanov

(Winner of the Van Cliburn Competition)

Sponsored by Access Visuals Limited

TUESDAY 27 MARCH 7.30 pm

Sibelius ... Tapiola

Tchaikovsky ... Rocco Variations

Maxwell Davies ... Symphony No. 1

Conductor Paul Daniel

Sponsored by Access Visuals Limited

MONDAY 2 APRIL 7.30 pm

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THE PHILHARMONIA

Music Director Giuseppe Sinopoli

ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL

TUESDAY 20 MARCH 7.30 pm

Verdi ... Overture, La Forza del Destino

Mozart ... Clarinet Concerto in A, K.622

Dvorak ... Symphony No. 9 (New World)

Conductor Heiichi Ohyama

Soloist Emma Johnson

Sponsored by Westwicks Building Society

THURSDAY 22 MARCH 7.30 pm

Grieg ... Peer Gynt Suite

Rachmaninov ... Piano Concerto No. 2

Beethoven ... Symphony No. 5

Conductor John Mauceri

Soloist Aleksai Saitanov

(Winner of the Van Cliburn Competition)

Sponsored by Access Visuals Limited

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THE BARBICAN HALL

Music Director Vladimir Ashkenazy

ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL

TUESDAY 20 MARCH 7.30 pm

Verdi ... Overture, La Forza del Destino

Mozart ... Clarinet Concerto in A, K.622

Dvorak ... Symphony No. 9 (New World)

Conductor Heiichi Ohyama

Soloist Emma Johnson

Sponsored by Westwicks Building Society

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Rossini ... Overture, The Barber of Seville

Maurice Strakosky, Soloist

Piano Concerto in A minor

LONDON CONCERT ORCHESTRA

FRASER GOULDING conductor

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EASTER SATURDAY 14 APRIL at 8 p.m.

OPERA GALA NIGHT

Maurice Strakosky, Soloist

Piano Concerto No. 1, The Nutcracker Suite

LONDON CONCERT ORCHESTRA

FRASER GOULDING conductor

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EASTER SUNDAY 15 APRIL at 7.30 p.m.

THE GLORY OF EASTER

Maurice Strakosky, Soloist

Piano Concerto No. 1, The Nutcracker Suite

LONDON CONCERT ORCHESTRA

FRASER GOULDING conductor

Box Office 01-638 8891

EASTER MONDAY 16 APRIL at 7.45 p.m.

THE GLORY OF MOZART

Maurice Strakosky, Soloist

Piano Concerto No. 1, The Nutcracker Suite

LONDON CONCERT ORCHESTRA

FRASER GOULDING conductor

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FRIDAY 20 APRIL at 7.45 p.m.

POPULAR CLASSICS

Maurice Strakosky, Soloist

Piano Concerto No. 1, The Nutcracker Suite

LONDON CONCERT ORCHESTRA

FRASER GOULDING conductor

Box Office 01-638 8891

SUNDAY 4 APRIL at 7.30 p.m.

POPULAR CLASSICS

Maurice Strakosky, Soloist

Piano Concerto No. 1, The Nutcracker Suite

LONDON CONCERT ORCHESTRA

FRASER GOULDING conductor

Box Office 01-638 8891

SUNDAY 4 APRIL at 7.30 p.m.

TCHAIKOVSKY EVENING

Maurice Strakosky, Soloist

Piano Concerto No. 1, The Nutcracker Suite

LONDON CONCERT ORCHESTRA

FRASER GOULDING conductor

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THE ARTS

When the funding dries up

TELEVISION

Sheridan Morley

In the week when Richard Luce, the Minister for the Arts, announced what promises to be either another rearrangement of the deckchairs on the Titanic or the greatest rethinking of regional Arts Council policy in its history, BBC 2's *Public Eye* last night came up with a useful survey of the whole subsidy-versus-sponsorship debate.

True, the only reference to this week's story came in the last line of Peter Taylor's commentary, and the report was also oddly outdated in failing to note such recent developments as the imminent re-opening of the Royal Court's Theatre Upstairs.

But the central thesis was more adequately expanded: at a time when the Royal Shakespeare Company and Covent Garden are each £3 million in the red, and when the National Theatre and English National Opera are likely to report a £500,000 deficit, sponsorship is proving at best to be an only marginal solution. Meanwhile, the coming of the poll tax will reduce the role of local councils still further.

Any art company's budget still has to come from somewhere. The RSC, the company most immediately threatened by its need to close at the Barbican, is managing to pay more than half its costs at the box office. This leaves only 30 per cent to be found by a government which has resolutely refused to keep its own promises by index-linking its grant.

Meanwhile, Royal Insurance is said to be reconsidering its RSC sponsorship; the breath is being squeezed out of the Bard; and by its constant economic hesitations, the Arts Council is encouraging commercial backers to behave likewise. Indeed, Mr Luce achieved an extra £3 million for the council last year, but that arrested the crisis only temporarily. If you have the vision, as Terry Hands said on last night's programme, the funds can always be found. The problem is that vision seems not to be very high on the present Government agenda.

More cheerfully, last night's *Apas* (BBC 2) was a little gem brought in from Spike Lee in New York. At a time when, as Richard Morrison recently noted in these columns, a capella singing in Britain seems to be the exclusive property of nice young men from Oxford, in Brooklyn it belongs to black groups of immense choreographic energy. This was rightly celebrated by Lee in a wonderfully quirky film that should serve as a model to arts producers here for its enthusiasm and accessibility.

Discs and jockeys

RADIO

Martin Cropper

The Gloria Hunniford Gold Cup Special (Radio 2, Thursday) will have puzzled those punters who thought that the Cheltenham Gold Cup was sponsored by the Tote. May we now look forward to the Brian Redhead Grand National?

But the real question is why Hunniford had been chosen to front the coverage of National Hunt racing's day of days. Terry Wogan at the Eurovision Song Contest makes perfect sense, because it is a case of like talking to like. Hunniford at the Cheltenham festival was just Irish.

With her first record, "Murphy's Dancing Pig", the nature of her audience became clear: blind Irishmen expatriates with a taste for feeble music. Racing favourites such as "We're In The Money", "Hey Big Spender" and "In The Country" were interspersed with on-the-spot interviews.

She decided early on that the occasion was exciting, and sought confirmation from many sources. She proved herself an adept of the art of asking questions that seem to require precise answers but are in fact open-ended. "What was it like? How did you feel? How confident were you?"

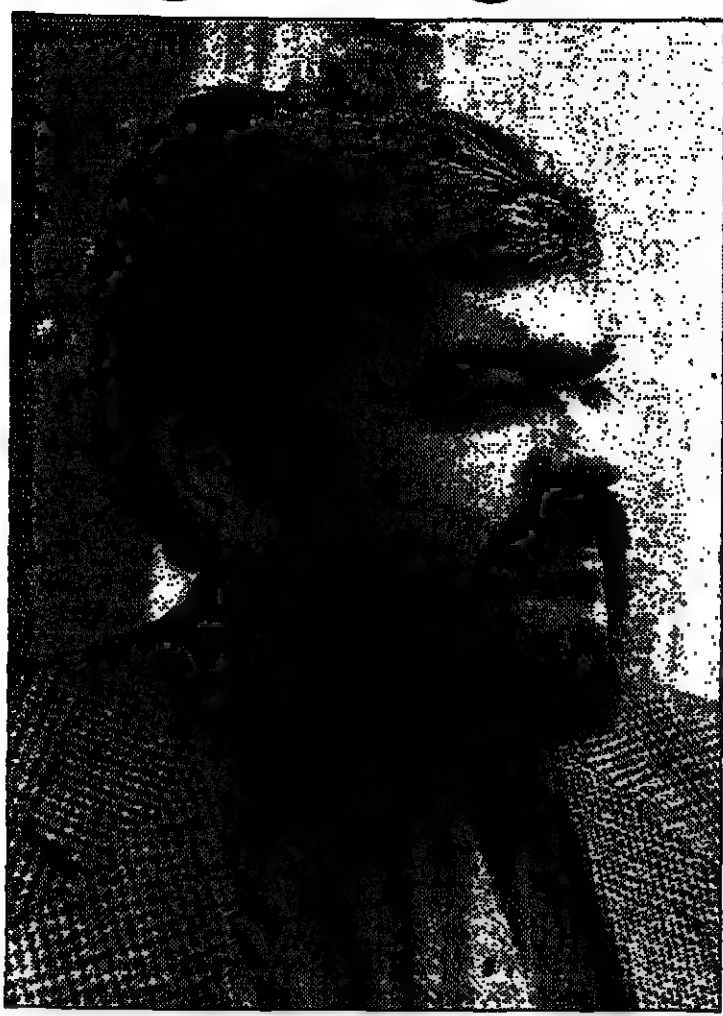
Horse sense is the faculty that prevents horses betting on humans. Everyone canvassed was terminally confident about the chances of the great white hope Desert Orchid, which as we know took the most tremendous bath. "He's not going to let his punters down, is he?" John McCrick had guessed.

There is satisfaction to be derived from hearing 90 minutes of foregone conclusions overturned by events. Then, when Desert Orchid's owner finally emerged, he met the full blow-torch of the Hunniford third-degree: "At what stage were you extremely worried that he wasn't going to make it?" Then he heard "The Whistling Gipsy".

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Andrei Plesu once risked death on behalf of a jailed poet. Now the Minister of Culture faces different problems, Sanda Miller writes

Fighting the good fight in Romania



Andrei Plesu: 'I took... risks. I could no longer bear to stand aside'

I had not seen Andrei Plesu for a decade. When I was ushered into his grand ministerial office in Bucharest I felt apprehensive. Would I recognize the young writer with whom I used to haunt the streets and cafes of Bucharest in the late 1970s, when I returned to my country of birth on a three-month British Council exchange scholarship?

My anxieties were groundless. As affectionate and mischievous as ever, Romania's new Minister of Culture greeted me with a story about an interview he had given in his car to a particularly insistent BBC journalist. He had been delighted when she discovered she had failed to record it.

Although a professional art historian and a successful writer, Plesu has attained his present position almost by accident. In January 1989, in an official memorandum, he volunteered a full analysis of the political crisis in Romania.

"During the last years of the dictatorship regime, I took more public risks. I could no longer bear to stand aside," the memorandum, according to Plesu, put on paper all the verbal grumblings of the Romanian intelligentsia.

It was apparently received courteously. "I was even called and praised for my courage," he said. Meanwhile, the poet Mircea Dinescu was arrested for publishing an interview in *Libération* openly criticizing the regime.

Plesu was one of six writers who signed a formal letter of protest. This led to Plesu being exiled to a village in northern Moldavia, where he remained until the revolution, after which Dinescu (by now in the forefront of the new National Salvation Front) suggested that Plesu become Minister of Culture.

The task is clearly a struggle. He spoke frankly: "I am tired and not doing so well because the existing structures are difficult to eliminate and the mentalities even more so. Thus I have to spend my time on trivia, such as fighting to replace incompetent personnel. People are scared of change; they put up fierce resistance with which I battle every day until apoplexy."

The problems are made worse by the small budget for culture under the Ceausescu regime: 600 million lei (£17 million), two-thirds of which was immediately designated for the despised "Cinara Romaniei": an annual folly of monumental proportions consisting of amateur artistic manifestations in praise of the two leaders and their party.

Everyone in the country was expected to take part in this festival, held in July or August in all the towns and villages. Because Ceausescu openly loathed the highbrow arts, he used to encourage the ordinary people to perform, in the belief that the natural talent of the Romanians would surpass that of professionals.

This, of course, had a shattering

effect on the morale of actors, singers and painters. The national arts institutions were hardly supported and the sole function of the old minister of culture was as a censor and lackey. Plesu has managed to double this budget to a level not equalled since 1944, "but twice a small sum is still a small sum".

I can confirm the magnitude of his problem. Sitting for a time in the Romanian provisional parliament, I heard the view expressed that with industry and agriculture in a state of collapse, the arts should be left to the end of the queue.

Yet in less than three months in office, Plesu has produced a whirlwind of change. Every single theatre has a new director. Andrei Serban, who lived in the West and recently directed *Prince Igor* at Covent Garden, has just agreed to become director of the National Theatre in Bucharest.

Plesu is especially keen to encourage touring companies to visit, and he wants exiles — who have acquired know-how from the West — to return and reinvigorate the theatre.

The new director of the National Museum is the distinguished art historian Teodor Enescu, and a Byzantine scholar, Professor Ravan Teodorescu, is the new president of Romanian Television, which will in future be independent. At present the studios — the main focus of the

revolution — are in poor shape, riddled with bullets.

Plesu intends to decentralize the arts, to allow independence to publishers, and especially to encourage translations of political and scientific material from abroad. New institutions will also be founded: an institute of oriental studies and a museum of religious art, "all of which costs money... we need to put up a good fight".

Plesu's policy is to draw into official cultural decision-making the intellectuals previously regarded as dangerous dissidents. The problem is that the intellectuals fear the political situation may change once more after the elections on May 20. Until then, Plesu is unable to find people with the right qualities to run the ministry. The people in the administration in the past had no training whatsoever, and few people in the country have suitable experience or education to meet the new conditions.

Plesu says his role is administrative, rather than political — "unlike that of Vaclav Havel for instance" — and hopes that he might bring to politics "a very necessary type of dilettantism... a kind of freshness the West has lost". But there was something familiar about his purpose as he swept away in the ministerial car, after a brief embrace, "I am off to see the Prime Minister, Petre Roman, to haggle for more funds."

Working hard, saying little

THEATRE

Benedict Nightingale

Sunday in the Park
with George
Lyttelton

This is a musical about an aloof, dedicated artist whose work often proved too strange for the critics and public; about a perfectionist who laboured with a strenuous delicacy to get the tiniest detail right.

In short, it is a musical about Stephen Sondheim. True, the nominal subject is the painter Seurat. At root, however, it is a camouflaged self-portrait and credo, as personal a show as its composer has penned. Hence its intermittent fascination and also, perhaps, the tedium which its visual wit and musical bravura cannot disguise.

Steven Pimlott's production, weaker than its American proto-

type, does not always help; but the basic problem is that we know no more about the hermit Seurat than about the recluse Sondheim. He spent his short life saying little, working hard, and doing nothing much else but father one child, who died young. What plot can the librettist, James Lapine, find in this human vacuum?

Not much. Since Seurat is busy on his vast *Grande Jatte*, his human figures wander round the park where he painted it, chattering, quarrelling, conducting amours. But the impression they give is as skimpy as you would expect, given that their purpose is to appear in an impressionist-period picture. That leaves Seurat himself, his grumpy mother, a smooty academicien called Julius, and an imaginary mistress, Dot.

But they prove wretchedly predictable. "Always changing! Why keep changing?" typically hurumphs Gary Raymond's Julius. Meanwhile, Maria Friedman's Dot and Philip Quast's Seurat play that old, sad game, neglectful artist

and exploited helpmate. "Yes, George, run to your work, hide behind your painting," she wails.

"I am not hiding in my canvases. I am living in it," he retorts. A bit later, and she is dangling their infant daughter over his palette, while he reacts with the conscientious brutality traditionally ascribed to genius: "you're blocking my light".

So much for Act I. There remains a longish coda in which George's grandson, also an artist, has parallel troubles with the American cognoscenti. In the Broadway original, his work consisted of cross-crossing laser beams; here, it is a "mixed media" spree, with androgynous mimes cavorting in coloured lights. Either way, the result is a trip to Paris and an inspirational meeting with Dot's ghost, who urges the lad to "move on".

There is visual delight in the way Seurat assembles the characters into a giant replica of *Le Jatte* itself. But it is engineered more sparingly and awkwardly than in New York. Moreover, Friedman's spirited Dot is the only principal whose voice and personality both come strongly over the footlights. Beside Mandy Patinkin's original George, Quast seems underpowered and over-amiable.

But there remain Sondheim's score, with its drive, bustle, and *pointilliste* plunks and plonks. The music can be melodious, the lyrics amusing; but at their most striking you feel they are obsessively tapping, hammering, grinding their way into the mind of Seurat as he experiments with colour, decides how to paint a hat, or thinks his way into a dog's ego.

That, if anything, is the show's justification. It is undramatic and dull. But the best of its songs represent Sondheim the introvert, Sondheim the repressed pioneer, restlessly and often dissonantly evoking the creative process and its meaning for those artists who can say, with him, with Seurat: "I am what I do."



Maria Friedman as the spirited Dot: a strong voice and personality

Power limps towards weariness

Jeremy Kingston

Births, Marriages
and Deaths
Southampton

This slow and limping play about student ideals corrupted by chance and pride has been described by someone high up in TV South as a powerful theatre piece. But he would, wouldn't he, because his company and Tyne Tees have come in with the Nuffield to produce a stage play which will subsequently become a six-part television serial.

What this turns out to be like I gratefully leave to my colleague in the top-left corner of this page to

discover. At least he will be able to pace up and down his room while watching it, tear at his beard and probably end up throwing his TV dinner at the set.

In the theatre we have to behave ourselves, when we really want to do it dash out in the interval to buy a bag of old tomatoes and throw them at someone. Not at the cast, who do what they can with the foolish lines and skeletal characters they have been told to animate. Some fail more distastfully than others, but it is towards Nigel Baldwin, the author, that the squishy vegetables should wing their way. Especially as he is the director, too.

The three scenes of the first half show us five students at a school

of journalism in 1973. All are having affairs with each another and betraying friends while rabbling on about the treachery of the capitalist press.

The second half brings the poor saps together again in 1990. Surprise, surprise, some have sold out to the Establishment, the mousey student has become a heroic front-line journalist, and so on.

A writer alert to the way chaps, girls, journoes, novelists ("It's a lonely job") actually talk in one another's company might have made something of this theme.

Emma Dewhurst and Joe Caffrey, wheel-bound reporter and vindictive schoolboy, generate moments of credibility, but what a weary evening to sit through.

Manic vision under the microscope

CONCERT

Hilary Finch

Philharmonia/Sinopoli
Festival Hall

It was, for once, a programme tailor-made for Giuseppe Sinopoli. That manic microscope vision, those wild tempi, those glutinous legatos about which he has been harangued for the best part of the week, could at last come into their own.

Of course, that is not to say that his would be everyone's idea of Ravel and Schoenberg. But the *Valse nobles et sentimentales* thrive on the capricious, and give

off a certain heady scent of their own when every fine-grained chord, every vein of melody is picked up by hyper-sensitive antennae. It is one way of doing Ravel which can, and on Thursday night did, come off.

Schoenberg's challenge to Sinopoli was the sheer size of his orchestra for the symphonic poem *Pelleas and Melisande* and the polyphonic complexity of its score. Sixty-four strings, quare, sixty-four strings, quare, sixty-four strings, quare, and much more: we certainly did hear them all and in circumstances in which the undue prominence of certain soloists only served to heighten the burdensome qualities of this score.

Again, Sinopoli conducted as if

he were recomposing the music. But with its trombone glissando, its plaited tresses of woodwind, its own suffocating melding of instrumental voices, whether in scherzo or in rhapsody, this is music which is fascinated, obsessed even, with its own craft. Sinopoli's reading emphasized a vulgarly genuinity at its heart.

Sibelius, too, wrote incidental music for Maeterlinck's *Pelleas*. However, this was the night of the Violin Concerto, and Kyung-Wah Chung responded to Sinopoli's extreme orchestral pianissimo by playing of platinum perfection, retaining the tension of its difficulties while effortlessly stirring the more inert passages of its orchestral writing.

Facetious choreography to the music of Mozart: *I Surrender, Dear* by Adventures in Motion Pictures

DANCE

John Percival

Adventures in
Motion Pictures
The Place

Why is it that graduates of the Laban Centre, named after one of the most intellectual of modern dance pioneers, go in for so much facetious choreography?

The very title of Matthew Bourne's group, *Adventures in Motion Pictures*, lets you know what to expect. Bourne, like Les Anderson with her two segregated groups, is seriously talked of as an

important new talent, but we need to get our categories right. What both are offering is a form of cabaret entertainment.

As such, I suppose Bourne is the most gifted. His latest offering is a series of sketches about English attitudes to French life and culture.

Every possible stereotype is in *The Infernal Galop*, but there are a couple of original ideas, too: the slowest can-can you ever saw and an amusing mer-man who is caught by some cheerful sailors.

The action could be tightened up and so could the performances, but the costumes by David Mansner are neat.

The first half of the show is given over to a new piece by Jacob

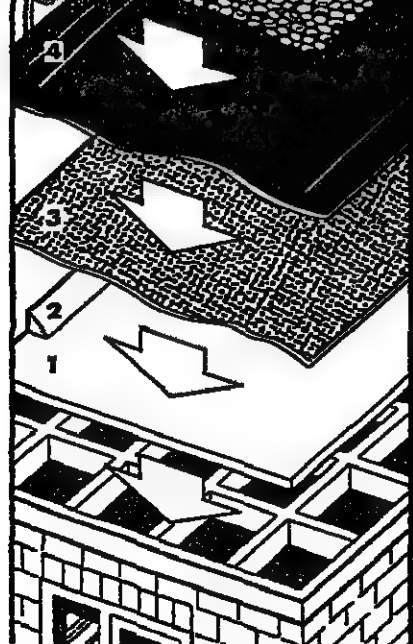
Marley, another much-hyped ex-Laban choreographer. *I Surrender, Dear* seems to be about people — or, perhaps, one person with imaginary playmates — getting psyched up for a late night at the disco.

Simon Vincent's designs put the whole cast in to drab-cut mauve frocks which suit the women almost as little as they do the chaps. The largest section of the collage score is borrowed from Mozart.

Marley's attempt to put steps to this is not to be compared seriously with Aiston's for Rambert the night before. But it does bring the score for the week to Wolfgang Amadeus two, British choreographers nil.

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RECORDS

High on farmyard and trolls

To Grieg, Ibsen's *Peer Gynt* was "the most unmusical of subjects"; so the score which at last flowed from his pen is as much of a miracle as Declan Donnellan's current National Theatre staging of a play which Ibsen himself originally conceived only in the mind of the reader.

With the upsurge of interest in Ibsen and, thanks to BBC Radio, in all things Scandinavian, any new recording of Grieg's *Peer Gynt* is likely to come under close scrutiny. What is more, Herbert Blomstedt's single disc of most of the incidental music, with some dialogue, comes only a year after Neeme Järvi's two-disc complete recording with the Gothenburg Symphony Orchestra, so comparison is inevitable.

What we lose in the San Francisco version is much of the dialogue, and the fragments which Grieg wrote for the episodes of the Woman in Green and Peer at the Statue of Memnon. We also miss the wedding dances for which Järvi obligingly hired a real Hardanger fiddler.

The most substantial shortfall of Blomstedt's recording, though, is in the orchestral playing itself. After his outstanding recordings of Nielsen, it is disappointing to hear his orchestra produce such a laboured lament for Ibsen, such a scrawny "Morning". These two pieces make the nicer balance and pacing, the longer breaths and the opalescence of Järvi's players. Blomstedt, though, certainly scores on the cow-dung and the trolls. His hard-girls may remain prima donnas, but the sheer plot and odour of The Hall of the Mountain King is there in the rhythmic bits of the strings and the raw cries of his Nordic trolls. A delectable Solveig offers consolation in this recording, too: Mari-Anne Haeggevang sings with a line as creamy as summer milk in the high passage.

Italy was the birthplace of both

Hilary Finch

Grieg: Incidental Music to *Peer Gynt* San Francisco Symphony/Blomstedt (Decca 425 448-2)
Sibelius: Symphony No 2/Scenes with cranes, the Finnish Radio SO/Sarasate (RCA Victor RD 87919)
Bruckner: Symphony No 4 Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra/Chailly (Decca 425 613-2)
Bruckner: Symphony No 6 Schleswig-Holstein Festival Orchestra/Eschenbach (Eurodisc RD 69010)

Ibsen's *Peer Gynt* and of Sibelius's Second Symphony. He sketched the second theme of its Andante while he was in Florence and, like Ibsen, revealed himself as ever more the man of the north the further south he went. Jukka-Pekka Sarasate brings out that archetype of "northernness" as we hear it in Sibelius in a dreamlike, under-stated performance of the symphony, stronger on subtlety than on swagger, more at home in the tensions of the slow movement than in the more extrovert energies of the first and last.

The opening, in fact, lacks impetus, and the recording, too, needs more acoustic space to enable the thematic material to glow out in bold relief. A somewhat charmless trio in the Scherzo leads into a Finale in which the woodwind's perky theme loses some of its thrill when moving into the major, simply because adequate momentum has not been built up. Sarasate and the Finnish Radio Symphony Orchestra are at their best in the carousels which imaginatively fill out this disc.

The meditative playing he draws so well from the strings is ideally suited to the little-known "Scene with cranes". Like the "Valse triste", this vignette comes from the incidental music Sibelius wrote for his brother-in-law's play, *Death*; and Sarasate captures well

the volatility of pulse and tempo within each piece. *Nightride and Sunset*, a 13-minute tone poem, is excitingly played: its long gallop is driven on through a landscape of ecstatic-like rhythmic patterns voiced by tense woodwind and jolted by the tambourine jingle of a horse's bells.

Bruckner is beginning to flood the record market, and it is quite some inundation. Just two examples from the many new performances and re-releases on offer have prompted the generally heretical thought that for our decade private listening might well do for Bruckner what live performances can fail to do. For, compared with Mahler, Bruckner is still not a box-office draw. It is almost as if, coming from the hyperactivity of our multi-faceted daily lives, we find Bruckner's mighty system of branching, organic growth almost too much to take in at once. Our concentration spans can balk when faced with romantic music which is devoid of any self-dramatization, any ironic pose to hang on to.

As Robert Simpson has written of the Fourth Symphony, Bruckner created a new type of finale: one motivated not by dynamic culmination, but by the "uncovering of a deep layer, an objective state, behind or beneath the rest". That state may, for many listeners, be best discovered in the solitude of private listening. Riccardo Chailly and the Royal Concertgebouw certainly have Bruckner coursing through their veins, and they offer a lucid, single-eyed approach to the Fourth Symphony.

This is not a performance which overbears in its commitment: indeed it is probably one of the least "Romantic" of readings of this eponymously named work. Chailly keeps the first movement light and mobile, letting the famous Bruckner triplets slip by perhaps just too easily, but coaxing the sweetest of playing from the woodwind as the air thins. The



Bruckner coursing through his veins: light and mobile, Riccardo Chailly coaxes "the sweetest of playing from the woodwind as the air thins"

second movement discovers Bruckner's sense of chaste distance, with a lean cello line, vibrato not overdone, pauses not overlong.

Bruckner's Sixth, the Cinderella among the symphonies, is tackled by Christoph Eschenbach's Schleswig-Holstein Music Festival Orchestra. In the circumstances of a live, one-off festival performance by a body of widely-drawn players, this was perhaps a wise choice: less is demanded in terms of long-term

vision and deeply assimilated wisdom. Bruckner, in fact, called this the cheekiest of his symphonies, and Eschenbach plays up the first movement's metrical complexities, and the fleet miniaturism of the Scherzo with its spectral Trio. He is at his best in the sighing chromatic lyricism of the second movement's finely graded string writing; at his weakest in the firm control of texture and tempo still essential in the outer two movements.

CLASSICAL UPDATE

Gibson: *Cries and Fancies* (Virgin VG 7 90649 2)
The vicious *Cries of London* are here, but vastly outweighed by fantasies which the viol of Fretwork weigh out with gravity, a rich, wheezing ensemble sound, and a big, physical relish of the faster music.

Wagner: *Tristan und Isolde* Vickers, Nilsson/Böhm. Rodolphe/Harmonia Mundi (RIC 32563.55, three CDs)
1973 recording from the Orange Amphitheatre, dominated by Vickers's expressive power and by the immenseness and immediacy of Nilsson, working together with Böhm against the wind and the audience.

Gunning for the emotions

Now that Courtney Pine has temporarily dropped from view, it is Steve Williamson's turn to dominate the jazz media. Another former member of the Jazz Warriors big band, Williamson has been a cult figure on the London circuit for the past two or three years. But while Pine has already released three solo records plus a film soundtrack, Williamson has only now made his debut.

Recorded in New York and London, *Waltz for Grace* confirms his position as the most impassioned of the new saxophonists. His aggressive, self-confident stance is sure to make this a popular choice among his club audiences. Whether it will have as much impact beyond that sphere remains to be seen. Though there are flashes of brilliance in this album — and some faultless playing from the rhythm section — there is also the same problem that has afflicted his live concerts. Williamson too readily slips into

JAZZ

Clive Davis
Steve Williamson *Waltz for Grace* (Verve 843-088)
Marcus Roberts *Deep in the Shed* (Novus 63078)
Mike Westbrook *Band On Abbey Road* (Enja/Tip Top CO888-805)

bombast, taking a sawn-off shotgun to virtually every solo. Over an entire album, the result is predictable. For all their harmonic sophistication, jazz gunslingsers can be just as boring as heavy metal axe-heroes.

Nevertheless, the album is memorable for its strong melodies. Unlike some of his contemporaries, Williamson rarely seems to be indulging in classroom exercises. With the American saxophonist Steve Coleman acting as producer on most of the tracks, the band creates a convincing blend of American and Caribbean influences.

"Visions", a ballad from Stevie Wonder's 1973 album *Innervisions*, allows an all too rare moment of introspection. With Dave Gilmore adding guitar accompaniment, Williamson's understated approach comes as a stark contrast to the rest of the session.

If much of Williamson's work is overheated, pianist Marcus Roberts comes weighted down with the cerebral ideology of the three-piece suit, neo-conservative school of young musicians. In these quarters, emotion is treated with suspicion, if not disdain.

A sideman with Wynton Marsalis, Roberts went solo last year, going to the top of the jazz album charts with *The Truth Is Spoken Here*. Its successor covers similar ground, the six self-penned compositions played with impeccable manners by a band that includes saxophonists Todd Williams and Herb Harris and the trombonist Wycliffe Gordon.

"Nebuchadnezzar" opens with a stately march, laced with Ellington-style reads voicings. But the Duke would surely never have stood for such stiff-necked soloing. For the rest, it is difficult to keep subversive thoughts at bay, especially when so many of the titles — "Spiritual Awakening", "Mysterious Interlude" — sound like cast-offs from the bad old days of Emerson, Lake and Palmer.

Mike Westbrook's latest project comes as something of an antidote, in the form of a re-working of the Beatles' *Abbey Road*. First commissioned for a festival in Reggio Emilia, the work had its London premiere last month. The live recording, from a performance at the Willisau Jazz Festival, shows that Westbrook has not lost his ability to find unexpected depths in over-familiar songs. Phil Minton's vocals are still impressively eccentric, but the idea of Andy Grappy's tube introducing "I Want You" is hard to resist.

ROCK UPDATE

Midnight Oil *Blue Sky Mining* (CBS 485653 1)
Socially conscious Aussies responsible for the estimable "Beds are Burning" single return with another collection of peerless rock songs: structures, catchy choruses and lyrical clenched fist salutes.

Despite the earnest tone, Peter Garrett's hard, cocky voice is never less than riveting.

And Why Not? *Move Your Skin* (Island CID 93285)
An assured and versatile modern pop statement grounded in reggae and funk, which sounds as fresh and bright as a button.

Mammoth: *This Should Move Ya* (Capitol EST 2117)
In the wake of their hit "Got to Have Your Love", the rapper MC Tee and DJ Mantronik pool another educated collection of beats and rhymes. The results are sparky enough, but do not quite fit into either the primal or the New Age categories of rap.

Vinyl floored?

Despite the rumours, the days of the LP are far from over, Mike Nicholls reports

These are hard times for music fans who prefer old-fashioned plastic to the technologically advanced compact disc. Last year sales of compact discs exceeded those of ordinary albums for the first time. While vinyl LP sales plunged by 30 per cent, 43 per cent more CDs were bought than in the previous 12 months. As if this were not bad enough, all the major stores in the United States have stopped ordering 7in singles.

As most artists' album sales are related to the success of their singles, this could mean the end of an era. Singles buyers are being forced to switch to the CD and cassette formats which currently command less than 10 per cent of the UK market. Another nail was hammered into the vinyl coffin this week when a director of HMV announced that within five years none of its shops would be stocking plastic, 7in or 12in.

On the face of it there seems little left to do but chuck out the old turntable and spend a few hundred pounds on a compact disc player. Trevor Butler of *Hi Fi News* says: "Most new classical records are now only available on CD and the majority of our letters are from readers complaining that they have literally been forced to go out and buy CD machines. But trying to phase out vinyl doesn't mean the same will happen here. No one's going to throw away huge collections overnight."

Britain's two biggest record companies feel there is life left in the vinyl format — "at least until the end of the century", predicts Jonathan Morris of CBS. "In 1979 some pundits reckoned cassette sales would exceed those of albums within three years. In the event it took seven. But there'll always be a market for vinyl, whether it's for special products

like 12in dance records or old recordings which haven't transferred well to CD."

Terri Anderson points out that EMI has a vested interest in keeping vinyl alive — the company owns the biggest manufacturing facility in the UK. "So not only do we intend to continue producing the format for our own titles, but also for the other companies whose records we press."

Recent sales figures indicate that vinyl is still popular, particularly around the dance floors of Britain. Between 1984 and 1988, vinyl album sales dropped slightly, while sales of singles plummeted until last year, when they registered a substantial rise.

There is a correlation between this rise and the vinyl album slump. The single is the staple of the dance market which last year ruled the top 40. Few artists sold anything like as many albums as they did singles. Black Box, whose "Rhythm Nation" topped the singles chart for six weeks, didn't even release an LP.

The key to last year's figures could lie with back catalogues — vintage albums which are being released on CD for the first time. A random sample revealed that in one record store up to 50 per cent of CD sales are classic items by artists such as the Beatles, Rolling Stones, Bob Dylan, Led Zeppelin and the Stranglers. Other stores estimated that 20 per cent of their CD sales were accounted for by back-catalogue material.

In other words, if it were not for the old releases CD sales would not have overtaken those of vinyl. This should convince the powers that be that now is not the time to be thinking of phasing out vinyl. Or, as the spokeswoman for Our Price observes: "If HMV wants to stop selling vinyl it means more profit for us."

JAZZ UPDATE

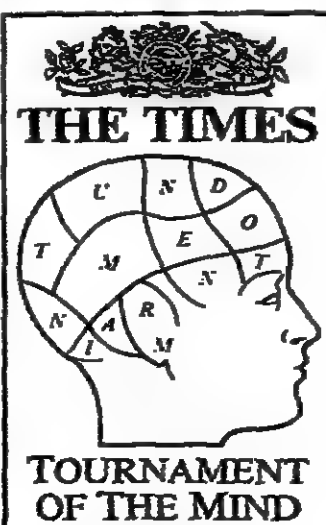
Frank Morgan *Mad Indigo* (Amities 91320)
After a career dogged by drug addiction, the West Coast alto player unleashes a dazzling quartet recording.

Stan Getz *The Girl From Ipanema* — The Bossa Nova Years (Verve 823511, four CDs/cassettes)
Five albums and assorted out-cuts from the most

commercially successful phase of Getz's career. Stan Getz/Gilberto is the highlight, of course, but the other sessions are not to be overlooked.

Astrud Gilberto *The Astrud Gilberto Album* (Verve 823009)
Marty Pacht contributes the string arrangements to the singer's debut solo album. It all sounds hopelessly Sixties now, but the nostalgia gradually works its spell.

Tournament of the Mind



1 LOGIC

In each triangle there is a relationship between the four numbers. Work out that logical relationship and tell us the value of the question mark.

8		4
9	112	5
	5	12
7	85	6
		15
		4

● Round 11 of *The Times Tournament of the Mind* includes a clever test of your word power and a general knowledge question that is sure to perplex.

● Entrants are playing for the chance to win £5,000, the top prize from success in the finals and a special timed play-off. The top school team will be decided from the final five rounds. School teams are playing for a Hewlett Packard computer.

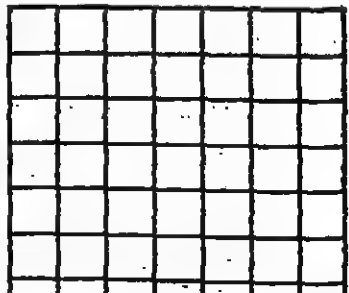
2 VERBAL

Add one letter to the front of the first pair of words to form two other English words. When you have done this for each pair of words, you will find, by reading downwards, that the letters form an eight-letter English word. What is that word?

- { AWL
- { AIR
- { ART
- { ONE
- { ATE
- { ARE
- { INK
- { OUT
- { ARK
- { AND
- { LID
- { MEN
- { ICE
- { YES
- { DIT
- { SPY

3 DIAGRAMS

How many rectangles of any size are in this diagram?



4 MATHS

A fire engine is travelling to a fire that is 15 miles away. The fire engine's tank contains 20 gallons of water. The water tank was full when the vehicle set off. The fire engine is travelling at 65 miles per hour, but the tank began to leak water at a rate of six gallons per hour. If 18 gallons are needed to put out the fire, will there be enough water in the tank?



Round 11 ANSWERS
Cut out this coupon and keep your answers until Round 20. Answers will be accepted only on coupons published in *The Times*

PUZZLES
Answer 1 _____ Answer 2 _____
Answer 3 _____ Answer 4 _____
MISCELLANY
Answer _____
NAME _____

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What the Barber family likes best is to introduce unusual plants — whether old cultivars which are in danger of becoming extinct, or good new ones — to a wider gardening public. One success has been the regeneration of a number of double primulas which had more or less died out in Britain, but were reproduced from healthy stocks from New Zealand. Hopleys also has a good list of perennial wallflowers, including two scented old yellows, Harpur Crewe and *Cheiranthus concinnum*.



● **Hopleys Plants, High Street, Much Hadham, Hertfordshire SG10 6BU (0279 84 2509).** Nursery and garden open Mon-Fri 9am-5pm (but closed all day Tuesday); Sun 2-5pm. Children welcome but no dogs. (Closed January and August.) Illustrated 1990 catalogue £1 (inc p&p).


- Apply a general fertilizer if necessary on heavy (clay) soils.
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


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SHOPPING

Gifts of scented beauty

There is more to Mother's Day than just buying a bunch of flowers. Nicole Swengley reports on some fresh ideas and prices

The British are not naturally a nation of flower-buyers. On average, we spend only about £15 a year on them, lagging well behind the Swiss and West Germans, who splash out £48 and £40, respectively, while the Dutch and French spend £35 and £24. And, when we order flowers for special occasions such as Mother's Day (Sunday, March 25), we tend to choose traditional blooms rather than experiment with unusual alternatives.

Perhaps this is because, until recently, there has been little choice, other than buying flowers at a cheap-and-cheerful market stall or braving the formality of a traditional florist's shop with grand displays and prices to match.

Flower names which sound like tongue-twisters to the uninitiated don't help either, and many of us are reduced to pointing and mumbling "A bunch of those, please".

Now a clutch of specialist shops is seeking to change the way we buy flowers by catering for purists large and small and for people who love the look and fragrance of flowers but haven't taken a Master's degree in floristry.

Jane Packer, a trained florist who blossomed after creating the bridal bouquets for the wedding of the Duke and Duchess of York, is the kind of florist who listens to the shoppers' ideas rather than blind them with knowledge.

"For Mother's Day we tend to concentrate on romantic-looking posies such as violets, primroses and old-fashioned pansies. Introducing your mother's favourite colour and fragrance is important, and we do this, for example, with tiny scented flowers such as muscari, freesia or narcissus, or with more sophisticated fragrances such as jasmine or tuberose."

As an alternative Mother's Day present, she suggests sponsoring a course in arranging dried or fresh flowers. Her own one-day courses cost £95.

● **Jane Packer**, 56 James Street, London W1 (01-935 2673). Mon-Sat, 9am-6pm. London deliveries only. Last orders for Mother's Day by March 23 for next day delivery.

Kenneth Turner, known for his unusual fresh-cut and dried flower arrangements, suggests a Mother's Day gift of most teddy bears, which last longer than fresh flowers. He also makes up dolls, rabbits or ducks in flowers or moss from around £95.

"When I think of Mother's Day I think of nosegays of violets (£35) or simple, chic filips of the valley (£40). But a garland basket filled with chocolates (about £150) could be equally appealing."

● **Kenneth Turner at Goodies**, 19 South Audley Street, London W1 (01-499 2823), delivers countrywide. Last orders by March 21 for next day delivery.

Christina Smith, the owner of The Flowersmith, Covent Garden, recommends white flowers for Mother's Day. She

suggests sending country flowers to town-dwelling mothers and city flowers to mothers in the country.

Posies of country flowers, starting at £15, could include camellias, daisies, white roses, guelder roses, mixed ranunculus with spring leaves, and country foliage such as pussy willow, hawthorn, forsythia and spiraea tied with a flouncy paper ribbon.

City flower arrangements, from £12, might include ginger, strelitzia, peach-coloured amaryllis and pink pineapples with lotus leaves, bear grass and wriggly willow.

● **The Flowersmith**, 34 Shelton Street, London WC2 (01-240 6688). Mon-Fri, 10am-6pm; Sat, noon-5pm. Countrywide deliveries. Last orders by March 23 for next day delivery.

The Bonsai Shop, also in Covent Garden, sells Chinese indoor and Japanese outdoor bonsai trees at around £6 for a 3in-tall, five-year-old tree. Bonsai trees are a good buy because they need little attention and last a long time. You can even buy one the same age as your mother.

● **The Bonsai Shop**, 28 Neal Street, London WC2 (01-240 6688). Tues-Sat, noon-6pm.

Sarah Waterkeyn, too, has unusual ideas for Mother's Day. She will create a dried or fresh flower arrangement which incorporates bottles of bath oil, pot pourri or any other gift. Bouquets start at £10, plus delivery (London only), dried and basket arrangements from £15, moss bowl arrangements from £12.

● **Sarah Waterkeyn**, 29 Lamb Conduit Street, WC1 (01-430 2287). Interflora available.

Caroline Dickenson has an exotic Mother's Day suggestion: a basket of amaryllis, chocolate and champagne. If this £75 extravaganza seems over-the-top, she also has tied posies of spring flowers or baskets of narcissus, crocus and polyanthus from £15.

● **Caroline Dickenson Flowers**, Lansdowne House, 33 Berkeley Square, W1 (01-491 9494), and 33 Park Street, W1. Countrywide deliveries. Orders can be taken on March 24 for Mother's Day delivery. Interflora service also available.

Vase has reputation for non-traditional tied bunches and cut flowers in unusual-shaped vases, from bud-bearers to Knickerbocker Glory glasses. Small tied bunches start at £25, but prices for exotica rise sharply. For the children, there are Mother's Day posies at £2.50 or a fishbowl bristling with flowering cacti for £8.50.

● **Vase**, 10 Clifton Road, W9 (01-286 7853), also has branches at St James's SW1, Chelsea Harbour, SW10, and Ealing Common, W5. Countrywide deliveries via Interflora. Orders up to and including March 25 for same day London delivery.

● **Pulbrook & Gould's** Mother's Day specialties include rustic baskets planted with yellow and white flowers such as mini daffodils and yellow polyanthus, from £18.50; mixed gardens with iris reticulata, hyacinth, jasmine, helixine

and green ivies and ferns planted in a mossy basket, from £30; tied posies of small spring flowers from £20.

● **Pulbrook & Gould**, 181 Sloane Street, SW1 (01-235 3290). Mon-Fri, 9am-5.30pm; Order by 11am on March 23 for same day delivery in London (last delivery before March 25). Countrywide deliveries via Interflora.

Owned by Julia Hodgkin, the Heals Flower Shop specializes in natural tied bunches using coloured tissue to complement the cut flowers. Unusual foliage with twisted bark and stems and herbs are also incorporated. For Mother's Day, there are bulbs in baskets, including crocuses and hyacinths, planted gardenia, orange trees and unusual tulips. Tied bunches from £20, baskets from £25.

● **Heals Flower Shop**, 196 Tottenham Court Road, W1 (01-636 1666, extn 5503). Mon 10am-6pm, Tues, Wed, Fri 9.30am-6pm, Thurs 9.30am-7.30pm, Sat 9am-6pm. Order by noon on March 24 for same day delivery, in London only.

Moyses Stevens's daffodil baskets and planted arrangements of snowdrops, polyanthus and primroses cost from £15; cut flowers and bouquets, £20.

● **Moyses Stevens**, 6 Bruton Street, W1 (01-493 8171) and Inn on the Park, Park Lane, London W1. Mon-Fri 8.30am-5.30pm, Sat 8.30am-1pm. London deliveries only. Order by March 23.

Basket arrangements with quarter bottles of champagne, from £25, are offered by Joan Palmer.

● **Joan Palmer**, 31 Palmer Street, SW1 (01-222 4364). Interflora: Mon-Fri 8.30am-5.30pm, Sat 8.30am-1pm. London delivery only for own

arrangements. Order by March 22 for March 24 delivery.

● **Harrods** recommends posies in a small terracotta bowl, £30; basket arrangement with Harrods' chocolates, £50; planted terracotta bowls or baskets of bulbs, £20; single orchids, £12.

● **Harrods**, Knightsbridge, SW1 (01-750 1234). Interflora: Mon-Sat 9am-6pm, Wed 9.30am-7pm. Order by March 21 for pre-Mother's Day delivery.

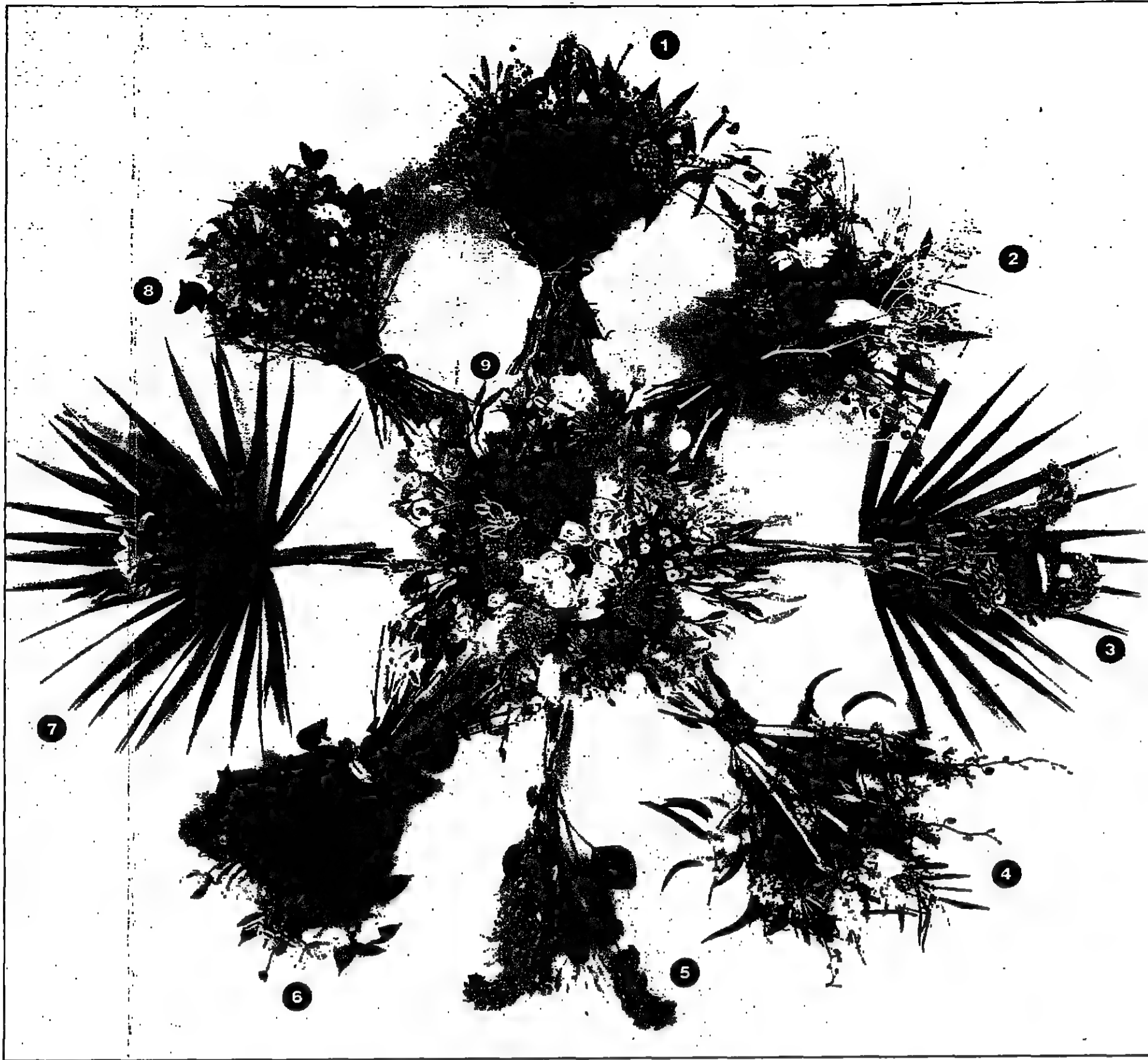
A bottle-green wooden hat box containing a vase with choice of violets, primroses and so on tied with lace ribbon, costs £25 at Chelsea Flowers.

● **Chelsea Flowers**, 23 Cale Street, SW3 (01-352 0996). Mon-Fri 9am-5pm. London delivery only. Order by March 24.

DIAL-A-GIFT

● **Interflora** has 2,900 outlets throughout Britain, or call direct on the Flowerline, 0529 304545 (credit cards only) outside shop hours. Specially for Mother's Day, Interflora has four floral arrangements, starting with flowering begonias at around £10 and simple bouquets from £13. A seasonal mixture of peach and cream blooms, spray carnations, chrysanthemums and gypsophila in a wicker basket costs from £14.95. Prices include local delivery charges. Order by March 22.

● **Florigram** (01-460 6000, 24 hours. Access or Visa) suggests a Mother's Day wicker-basket of dried flowers - red rose, sea lavender, gypsophila, avena, nigella and green rose leaves. The gift can be personalized with a message and delivered direct for £17.95 including p&p. Last orders by March 22.



Mother's Day arrangements by Jane Packer, Kenneth Turner, The Flowersmith, Heal's Flower Shop, Harrods, Pulbrook & Gould, Moyses Stevens, Joan Palmer, Vase

1 Orange spray auburnia, red roses, orange and red ornamental peppers, orange lilies, lexi, solidaster
2 White roses, white gerbera, arum and longiflorum lilies, Queen Ann's lace, eucalyptus pods, bear grass
3 Palm leaves, moluccella, anthurium
4 Yellow arums, gloriosa lilies, white lilac, mimosa

delbata, eucalyptus pods, Singapore orchids
5 Pink ornamental pineapple, moluccella, proteas
6 Amaryllis, peach roses, eucalyptus pods, poppies, euphorbia marginata, camellia foliage
7 Palm leaves, stargazer lily, kaffir lily
8 Salmon carnations, yellow lilies, alstroemeria, gypsophila
9 Porcelain spray roses, orange lilies, ornamental peppers, nutons, euphorbia marginata, eucalyptus pods



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☐ I enclose a cheque/postal order for £50.
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NAME _____

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Playing the flower name game

Flowers have long symbolized human emotions, from the Roman laurel wreath of power to the simple love message of the single rose. So it is hardly surprising that one of the 10 books selected by the Book Marketing Council as an appropriate gift for Mother's Day is *The Language of Flowers*.

The hardback, in a decorated sleeve and edited by Sheila Pickles, managing director of Penhaligon's perfumery, explores the age-old meanings of flower names.

Penhaligon's, founded in 1870, was in full bloom at a time when the Victorians' enthusiasm for symbolic messages was at its height. Most of the book's illustrations date from this period.

By the time Ms Pickles joined Penhaligon's in 1975 the company had declined, so she set about building up the technical knowledge to create the products which the company now sells in its four London shops and branches in



Bath, Chester and York. Scented flowers such as jasmine, bluebell, lily and lavender are represented in the book and she admits that many of the flowers chosen are her favourites.

"I tried to include flowers which are pretty and have interesting meanings. I researched their symbolism in old Victorian books, libraries

and second-hand book shops. I discovered that the meanings differed quite a lot but took a consensus opinion. Sometimes it was difficult to find a pertinent literary illustration.

"For example, phlox means 'agreement' and clematis means 'mental beauty'. So I chose passages of verse and

prose which seemed to embody these sentiments, even if they did not refer directly to the flowers themselves.

"I adore flowers and think it's extraordinary the way you can plant reds, pinks and oranges together and the colours do not clash as they would on a printed page. My garden has lots of greenery - hostas, Solomon's Seal, lily of the valley, ivy - and I use foliage with two or three blooms in the house. At the table, I place individual flowers by each setting."

The book is dedicated to her mother. "I usually send her flowers - lily of the valley - on Mother's Day. She has always worn that particular perfume and if I smell it on anyone else I think of her."

"It's strange how the fragrance of flowers is as potent as listening to an old song." ● *The Language of Flowers* (Penhaligon's, £12.95). Next month, Penhaligon's, 41 Wellington Street, London WC2 (01-836 2150), launches a range of scented stationery called *Victorian Party*.

MAIL A TEDDY

Dream start is key to dream game

By David Hands
Rugby Correspondent

The 65-year-old stadium at Murrayfield has known some proud sporting moments, not least on the day of its official opening on March 21, 1925, when Scotland beat England 14-11 and thus accomplished their first grand slam, but never has there been a game of rugby played there with a greater significance than today's 106th Calcutta Cup match.

All the glittering prizes hang tantalizingly in the balance: the grand slam, for both Scotland and England, the five nations' championship, the triple crown and the old cup itself. It will be a measure of the quality and the character of today's teams if they can produce a match worthy of the occasion or whether the burden of expectancy will weigh them down in the execution.

"It will tell us a lot about what we have really achieved," Roger Uttley, the England coach, said yesterday after watching his players handle a 40-minute training period at Peebles in which scarcely a mistake was made. This has been the pattern of England's approach this championship season, the coaches conceding responsibility to the players in readiness for the decision-making, which this afternoon may provide the vital difference in times of stress.

And stress there will be. It is only a game of rugby but it has a buzz of interest it has created, north and south of the border, where clubs, Scottish and English, will play their games this morning before gathered in front of hastily erected giant television screens to watch the Royal Bank of Scotland international. "The first 15 or 20 minutes will see some of the fastest, most physically committed rugby any of us have seen," Geoff Cooke, the England team manager, said.

"I hope we will retain our composure and shake the Scots with the sheer pace and intensity of our game, and that they will realize why people are saying we are not such a bad side. There will be an enormous effort from Scotland but we will be going out there to establish control early on and, if we do that, we can put them under pressure."

It has been said of both countries that their best is yet to come. Of Scotland, that they struggled to beat Ireland and Wales — one score was the difference on each occasion — and that the whitewash of France was assisted by the dismissal of Carmichael, the French flanker.

The England management estimates that, after a sluggish start against Ireland, the level

Five nations' table

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
England	3	3	0	0	53	13	6
Scotland	3	3	0	0	47	19	6
France	4	2	0	2	33	57	7
Wales	3	0	0	3	34	78	0
Ireland	3	0	0	3	22	67	0

RESULTS: January 28: Wales 18, France 29; England 22, Ireland 10; February 3: France 7, England 28; Ireland 10, Scotland 13; February 17: Scotland 21, France 0; England 34, Wales 6; March 3: Wales 9, Scotland 13; France 31, Ireland 12.

REMAINING MATCHES: March 17: England v Wales.

of performance was raised some 10 per cent against France but suffered a relapse against Wales, when at least three try-scoring chances were missed.

There are imponderables: the weather, so frequently windy at Murrayfield, is one, and the refereeing is another. David Bishop, from New Zealand, is well known to both countries: he handled their respective games against Australia in 1988 and takes the positive view that he is there to provide a framework in which the players can display their skills.

Bishop, whose customary beat is the hurly-burly of Ranfield Shield rugby, knows that that means the application of law as well as the extension of advantage so that we avoid the unwholesome sight of players climbing all over each other at lineouts and back lines seeking to reduce their opponents' space by advancing offside behind the referee's back.

England, the holders of the Calcutta Cup, as they have been for the past three years, have paid more attention to Scotland's performance against France than their most recent match with Wales, because they believe that the sight of three back-row forwards standing off a scrum does not constitute a realistic approach to international rugby.

The two areas of greatest importance in Scotland's success this season have been their back row (which in itself owes much to the sturdy work of the front five) — Jeffrey has enjoyed a quite outstanding season — and the midfield defence, which has been niggardly in the extreme.

To negate these two areas, the Scots have to be made to turn and England should be strong enough at the set-pieces to make them do so. But much of England's work this week has concentrated on putting the ball through the hands of the backs, introducing Hodgkinson into play in a way which has not yet been effective.

Hodgkinson's value to the side cannot be overstated: he has scored 39 points in three championship games and, in two of them, successful penalties have provided England with what Uttley calls a "dream start." In his first full



Sole and soul-mates: Scotland's captain, with all the glittering prizes to play for, leads his brothers in battle exercise before today's hostilities at Murrayfield

TODAY'S TEAMS AT MURRAYFIELD

Scotland				England			
A G Hastings	15	Full Back	SD Hodgkinson	(Nottingham)			
A G Stanger	14	Right wing	S J Halliday	(Barn)	14		
S Hastings	13	Right centre	W D C Carling	(Barn)	13		
S R P Linnell	12	Left centre	J C Gascott	(Barn)	12		
I Tait	11	Left wing	R Underwood	(Leicester)	11		
C M Chalmers	10	Stand off	C R Andrew	(Worcester)	10		
G Armstrong	9	Scrum half	R J Hill	(Barn)	9		
D M B Sole	1	Prop	F A G Rendell	(Worcester)	1		
K S Milne	2	Hooker	B C Moore	(Nottingham)	2		
A P Burnell	3	Prop	J A Probyn	(Nottingham)	3		
J Jeffrey	6	Flanker	M G Skinner	(Nottingham)	6		
C A Gray	4	Lock	W A Dooley	(Nottingham)	4		
D F Croxall	5	Lock	P J Ackford	(Nottingham)	5		
F Calder	7	Flanker	P J Wintbottom	(Nottingham)	7		
D B White	8	No 8	M C Teague	(Gloucester)	8		

Referee: D Bishop (New Zealand)

REPLACEMENTS: 16 C Redpath (Worcester), 17 D S Wylie (Stewart's), 18 G H Oliver (Hawick), 19 D J Turnbull (Hawick), 20 A W Brouder (Stewart's), 21 J Allen (Edinburgh Academicals)

English presence felt in Edinburgh

By Alan Lorimer

There is an almost eerie quiet in Edinburgh as the Scottish capital awaits the grand slam decider between Scotland and England. Not for the English, whose supporters traditionally arrive in Scotland en masse up to a week before the match and make their presence visible with scarves, bonnets and sweaters and audible in the pubs of Rose Street, with their singing.

But the English are certainly here. All hotels in and around Edinburgh are booked and at Edinburgh Airport a spokesman for operational management said that up to 20 business and executive flights were expected to arrive yesterday and today, bringing in well in excess of the usual 5,000 visiting supporters. But any expecting to purchase tickets at the last minute are sure to be disappointed.

Yesterday the bookmakers shortened the odds on an

English victory. William Hill quoting them at 11-4 on favourites with the Scots 12-5. The bookmakers may have taken into account the weather forecast, strong southerly winds and the possibility of some rain today. Despite the odds against Scotland the specialist kniwear manufacturers are geared up to producing grand slam sweaters. Scotland completed their final practice session at Meggaid yesterday in less than 40 minutes. "It was important to keep it short and sharp," Ian McGeechan, the coach said.

If an additional lift were needed, Scotland will kick off after an extended playing of the national song *Flower of Scotland*. The Scottish Rugby Union announced yesterday that two verses, instead of one, would be played. The national anthem will be played for the English team.

TRAVEL

A DRIVE IN THE DESERT

Namibia has been described as a Third World country with a First World infrastructure. The diamond mines may have something to do with that. Ros Drinkwater left this town life behind and took a four-wheel drive into the desert, where she saw elephants at dawn and learned how to eat a scorpion.

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CLOSED FOR DEMOCRACY

It was frustrating to arrive in Moscow when Red Square, St Basil's Cathedral and the Kremlin were all closed to visitors because the Congress of People's Deputies was in session. When history is being made, tourism must hold back. However, George Hill found much to fascinate him among the Russians in their capital city.

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BENEATH THE WAVES

Rob Neillands goes scuba-diving as we continue our activity holiday series.

Page 62

Eye operation puts Mason at risk

By Srikanth Sen, Boxing Correspondent

Gary Mason, the British heavyweight champion, underwent an eye operation at the Royal Eye Hospital, Manchester, yesterday. A hospital spokesman confirmed that he had undergone a retina operation but could not disclose the exact nature of the surgery.

Mason was booked into hospital after he complained to his manager, Terry Lawless, immediately after his bout against Everett Martin, of Texas, on Wednesday night, that he was having difficulty focusing.

Mason will be under the care of Professor David MacLeod, who also performed the retina operation on Maurice Hope, the former world light-middleweight champion from Hackney, 10 years ago.

If it is confirmed that the operation was for a detached or torn retina, Mason, who was to have made a multi-million-dollar world title challenge next year, may be unable to box again.

The British Boxing Board of Control does not allow boxers with retina operations to continue with their careers.

While Hope was allowed to carry on boxing, the Board refrained its rules on retina operations and even went so far as to try to block the return of Sugar Ray Leonard and recently, refused to allow a British referee to officiate at Leonard's bout with Roberto Duran.

The Board refused to comment on Mason's future. "We'll discuss Gary Mason

when I've learned what the operation was. I'm not going to be wrapped in gloom and doom," John Morris, the secretary of the Board, said.

Quoting from the rule book, Morris said: "The Board may take such action as in its absolute discretion it sees fit."

He added: "The medical side is so important. The health of the boxer must genuinely be put first. There can be no exceptions. If they get it wrong on the medical side we won't have boxing."

Before going in for his operation Mason was hopeful. He said: "I have come too far. I've worked too hard to lose it all now. I'm in the best possible hands with David MacLeod."

Lawless said: "Gary now tells me he has been concerned about his eye for some time but thought it was something that would go away. It is too early to say whether he will fight again."

Mason is the fourth Lawless boxer to suffer from retina trouble. After Hope, Horace Notice, the former British heavyweight champion, had an operation for detached retinas in both eyes.

Frank Bruno had to have an operation in Columbia in 1982 to correct short-sightedness before being given a licence.

Mason's eye trouble could be the reason for his poor performance against Martin. "My focusing was out and I could not put my usual combinations together," Mason said.

Sprinters urged to boycott Ben Johnson on his return

By John Goodbody

Sir Arthur Gold, the veteran campaigner against drug abuse in sport, yesterday urged the world's leading sprinters not to race against Ben Johnson when the Canadian returns to international athletics in September.

"I would ask Carl Lewis and Linford Christie not to compete in 'spectaculars' so that Johnson does not enjoy the wages of sin," the chairman of the British Olympic Association said.

Sir Arthur said that for Johnson, who was banned for two years after being tested positive for anabolic steroids after finishing first in the 100 metres at the Seoul Olympics, the "price of notoriety was 20 times the price of fame."

Meeting organizers in Europe are already planning to match Johnson with Lewis and Christie, who finished behind the Canadian at the

Games, only to be awarded the gold and silver medals when Johnson was disqualified.

Sir Arthur said that the price for Johnson was now rumoured to be 20 times his appearance money in the past. "I would submit the solution lies in the hands of those who do not cheat. Johnson will only earn vast sums if other stars run against him," he told representatives of more than 60 British governing bodies attending a Sports Council seminar on drug abuse.

Under the regulations of the International Amateur Athletic Federation, Johnson has been banned from competing for two years. However, Sir Arthur, a former president of the European Athletic Association, reiterated his opposition to Johnson ever being reinstated.

He pointed out that the Canadian had altered his physique over the years from the use of illegal pharmaceutical products, and that some of the benefits would remain. He also said the whole Olympic ethos was against cheating. "He should never be allowed to run again in the Games," he said.

Derek Casey, the Sports Council's director of national services, expressed his concern that, of the 42 competitors found positive in all sports in Britain in 1988, action had only been known to have been taken in 12 cases.

He said that the national governing bodies and the council, which runs the drug testing programme from taxpayers' money, were "rather slow in chasing up the results." He was certain that "in most cases it is inefficiency rather than malpractice."

Reflections on a golden day

By Owen Jenkins

The owner of Norton's Coin, the winner of the Cheltenham Gold Cup, had no chance to rest on his laurels. For Sirrell Griffiths, it was business as usual on his dairy farm at Nantgarde, near Carmarthen, in Dyfed.

The whole village shared in the glory of the rank outsider which had caused one of the greatest upsets in racing history. Practically everyone had placed a bet. One man could have retired on his winnings but was regretting pulling out

at the last moment from placing a £1,000 bet at 200-1.

The horse was paraded down the village street and in front of the pub where the crowd had gathered. When Sirrell Griffiths at last had time to reflect, he said: "It still hasn't really sunk in and it won't. I suppose, until I get a chance to sit down on my own and think about it or have a good night's sleep. The horse will have a rest now, but if I think he'll be all right in about three weeks time he might

have a run then."

Local bookmakers had a heavy day. Lynn James, of Carmarthen, said: "It's been nasty but not disastrous. I've had to pay out in the region of £25-30,000 but Corals in Carmarthen are talking in the region of £100,000. I won't be able to recoup my losses because the punters came in to bet only on Norton's Coin. They'll be back only when the horse runs again or for the Grand National. It's money that's gone and that's it."

Taking the High Road to Rugby's World Cup

The luck of the draw offers Scotland's rugby team a home run all the way to the World Cup final at Twickenham on Saturday, November 2 1991.

The prospect of getting there without once having to leave their fortress at Murrayfield ought to give the Scots a flying start. It only remains for Ian McGeechan to find a team capable of exploiting home advantage.

The Lions coach has been in Scotland for 12 months in which to win the oracle and achieve a which has long proved beyond the reach of Scotland's other football team.

As you would expect such a canny race, the Scots are leaving nothing to chance. They have brought one of the main folk halfway across the world to let David Sole and his lads in on a few All Blacks secrets.

While four of the Five Nations were kicking off this year's championship at Twickenham and Cardiff, the five were ensconced at the Gleneagles Hotel listening with rapt attention to Jim Blair.

He is the Scot who got the All Blacks fit to win the international World Cup in 1987 whose training techniques the envy of the rest of the rugby world.

"We have our own fitness programme but Jim gave us a insight into New Zealand thinking," said McGeechan. "We have learnt a lot from his visit."

Precisely how much is about to be revealed, not just in the Five Nations championship but some weeks after the domestic season finishes. The acid

will come in June, Scotland challenging the All Blacks on their own paddock in Dunedin and Auckland on successive Saturdays.

They have already made Blair. "In New Zealand they're regarded as a side that never takes a step backwards."

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The union at rugby's coal-face



When England meet Scotland today, the forwards will stage their own grand slam. David Hands reports

The scrum is a reminder of the origins of rugby union, of player striving against player for supremacy. It is an elemental facet of the game, still requiring brute force and bodily strength but refined over the years by the appliance of technique and nourished by those countries who are the recognized leaders of world rugby. Philip Nel, the captain of the only South African team to have won a series in New Zealand, in 1937, is said to have received a telegram from home, just before the deciding third international, containing three words: "Scrum, scrum, scrum." It does not lose much in translation from Afrikaans.

In that match, as often as the laws permitted, the Springboks opted for scrums. They deliberately adopted the scrum as a weapon, physical and psychological, and they won 17-6. Despite the various amendments to the laws in the intervening 53 years, the scrum remains just that, and a successful forward unit can have a demoralizing effect on the opposition.

Sometimes there has been an imbalance, as in Britain during the late 1970s, when, in the wake of the 1974 British Isles party which defeated South Africa, coaches tended to spend so much time organizing their forwards that the skills of the backs were neglected. That view was encouraged by the 1977 Lions in New Zealand, who reduced the All Blacks to a three-man scrum at one stage of the tour, but still lost the series.

Scrum is only part of the whole, but they are a vital component; all the successful sides have had good scrummers - lately that includes the 1984 Australians,



who won a grand slam in Britain, and the New Zealanders who have been unbeaten over the last three years.

The point which was apparently lost in Britain was that forwards needed to be good scrummers - lately that includes the 1984 Australians,

able to contribute in other areas of the game.

But even though scrummaging requires considerable strength, both Paul Rendall and Jeff Probyn, the England prop forwards who will be sharing duties at rugby's coal-face against Scotland at

Murrayfield today, agree that mutual respect is the most important factor in a good scrum. "You can't make up for deficiencies in any area; you each have an individual job to do, and if any one person isn't doing it, it all becomes harder," Probyn,

also a club colleague of Rendall at Wasps, says.

Rendall, the England loose-head, is famous for his practical sense of humour as judge of the players' court when on tour, and the number of "characters" and captains to have emerged from the front-row union is legendary. But when it comes to his responsibility as a rugby player, Rendall is in deadly earnest. "It's a myth that the scrum is just a means of restarting the game," he says.

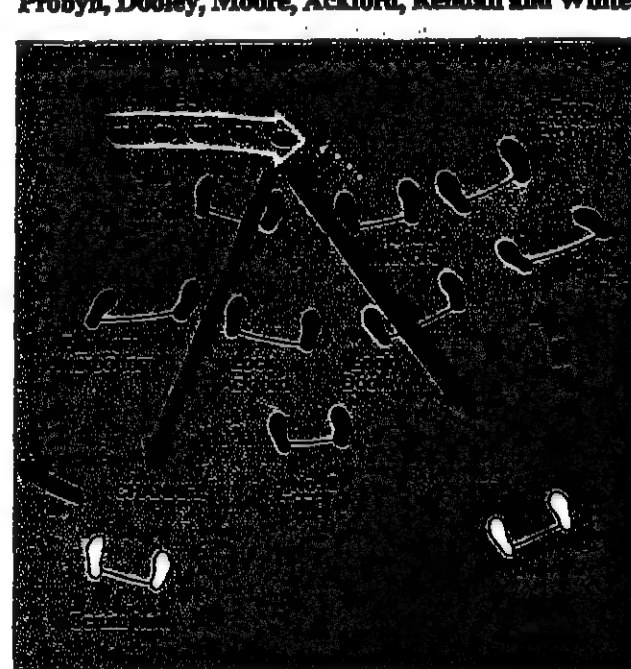
"You have to have respect for each other," Rendall adds. "It's being able to handle pressure. I don't think anyone would suggest there was any dead wood in the England scrum. We suit each other. As a unit I don't think we are worried about taking on any pack in the world."

That, of course, is fighting talk, meat and drink to eight Scots who have knocked around the world a bit themselves. Except that four of the Scottish pack were with four Englishmen wearing Lions' jerseys last year and they know, better than anyone, the quality of England's tight forwards today. "From the first scrum against the Welsh," Rendall adds, "we knew they were going, there was no drive coming through. The Irish cracked eventually, but the French, they held. They had a very strong pack and we knew we weren't going to move them."

"Scotland have been together as long as we have. They're a good, solid side, no weak links and they have a common purpose in the way they play." The first three or four scrums will be the telling ones: "You have to be able to stay exactly where you want to be on your own ball," Probyn says. "If you can get a slight nudge [a degree of forward momentum], well and good. On the opposition ball, it's a case of trying to move them."

The scrum is not a static phase, even if it may appear to be, given rough parity between the opposing packs. Each is trying to gain an advantage,

Bound together: the Scottish view today of the England scrum. From left: Skinner, Probyn, Dooley, Moore, Ackford, Rendall and Winterbottom, with Teague at No. 8



SCRUM HEELS

● CHANNEL ONE: a fast ball, coming direct from the hooker between left-hand flanker and lock straight to the scrum half, who will already have settled with his No. 8 how it is to be used, either for quick dispatch to the backs, or for a linking move with the back row. The fast ball is designed to launch an attack before the opposition know where the thrust is coming, possibly while their flankers are still bound to the scrum.

● CHANNEL TWO: a ball worked across the scrum between the locks. Slower possession but not necessarily a defensive move as it may allow the scrum half time to settle himself for a kick, either out of defence or into the box (the area just behind the opposing scrum but in front of the full back).

however slight, which will benefit back row and half backs, or create problems for the opposition if they have to cope with possession on the retreat. There are various ways of doing so, nor are they necessarily illegal, although it is a fact that if you play in the front row you must be ready for your share of knocks.

When England have the put-in at a scrum this afternoon, for instance, the tight five forwards - props, hooker and locks - will concentrate on having their legs in the correct position to give the maximum solidity to the pack, thus giving Brian Moore, the hooker, the best possible platform from which to strike for the ball. He will want a good look at the ball, but his opposing tight-head prop - Paul Burnell - will be trying to keep his side of the scrum low, both to spoil Moore's view and to reduce the effect of the English shove. It is this individual struggle which often causes collapsed

scrums, which are clearly areas of potential danger; no prop genuinely wants to collapse the scrum, save as a measure born of desperation or because he is being so badly beaten that he has no alternative. Indeed, if one scrum has gained superiority a good prop will try and hold his beaten opposite number up so that the concerted drive of eight forwards can take effect and create chances for the back row or the backs.

Wales illustrated all too obviously against Scotland a fortnight ago the limitations imposed by a poor scrum. Even though they had a period of intense pressure on the Scottish line just before the interval, they could not score because they were being pushed back, and anything that Mark or Robert Jones attempted was with poor possession, while Scotland's technical advantage enabled John Jeffrey and Derek White to stand off and concentrate on the next stage of the defence.

If a pack gains the upper hand then all sorts of opportunities occur: the back row can

run through its repertoire of attacking moves, the scrum half gets the ball in his hands going forward, which leads in turn to the whole back line, the opposition are constantly on the back foot, as Ian McGeechan, the Scotland coach, would say, and that is dispiriting.

Peter Wheeler, who was the England hooker when the grand slam was won against Scotland in 1980, described the feeling of a successful scrum thus: "There was one scrum at Murrayfield which I regard as the best I have ever been part of. It took place near the Scotland line, on our own ball, and Billy Beaumont called for a double-shove. The ball was heeled, the scrum locked and pushed and I can still recall the feeling as we surged forward like a super-charged car going into over-drive". No international scrum expects that kind of advantage, which comes from a technical superiority, but if England can revive that sensation today, they may be halfway down the road to victory.



THE HAKA



THE CIBI



THE NIKE



'I don't think anyone would suggest there was any dead wood in the England pack. I don't think we are worried about taking on any scrum in the world'



With Rendall to the fore, the England front row prepares to take issue at a set scrum

Match of the day at new San Siro

From Stuart Jones
Football Correspondent
Milan

Of all the league fixtures to be staged this weekend, one overshadowed the rest. It will not take place, as some might imagine, in Manchester, where United and Liverpool are to feature on national television tomorrow. Even that will be dwarfed by the local derby in Milan.

The setting alone lifts the game here far above the ordinary. The San Siro stadium, where the World Cup finals will open on June 8, was already a welcome edifice before it was refurbished at a cost of £50 million. Now it is possibly the most breathtaking arena in the world.

It is sure to reverberate with the noise of a capacity crowd of more than 83,000 tomorrow afternoon. Not only are both sets of supporters on home territory but the traditional warfare, which has been waged since 1947, is also laced with a few additional pinches of spice.

Inter, the champions and the holders of the Italian Supercup (a title they collected by beating Sampdoria 2-0 in November) are lying fourth and need to regain their stature. In the words of Zenga, their international goalkeeper, "a clear-cut victory would restore our prestige and keep our fans happy".

It would also do for the self-doubt surrounding their rivals, AC Milan, the champions of Europe and of the world, are the leaders, but their irresistible progress was arrested a week ago. An unbeaten run of 15 games ended in comparatively humiliating circumstances. They lost 3-0 at Juventus.

Arrigo Sacchi, Milan's manager, explained that his players were "mentally and physically exhausted". Their programme has recently included the European Cup (having held Chelsea to a goalless draw in Belgium), the Italian Supercup and the Italian Cup (in the semi-final they will play, of all teams, Juventus).

"The worst is over," Sacchi says. But he has lost Ascanelli, known as the Italian's main defence, and he must rebuild his fragile defence, because of suspension and van Basten, their prolific centre forward who is the League's leading scorer, has uncharacteristically not scored a goal in either of the last two matches.

Yet AC Milan are powerful enough for Silvio Berlusconi to propose that they should represent the nation in the World Cup. Even if he is the owner of the club, his suggestion was not so outrageous.

Apart from van Basten and Rijkaard, the Dutchman who would be ineligible, the side is littered with Italian internationals. So is Inter's defence. Their attack, led by Klinsmann and Shalunov, carries more of a West German accent.

AC Milan, who triumphed 3-0 in the November derby, are seeking to protect the lead they gained initially at the end of last season. On the day they beat Roma 4-0, later conveniently opened the way with a 3-1 victory over Naples, who were deposited. No such neighbourly favours will be offered tomorrow.

Hodde sees a specialist about his knee
Glenn Hodde was examined by a specialist in Milan yesterday in an attempt to decide whether or not to operate on his troublesome left knee, which is keeping him out of the Monaco team, in the French first division.

Anne, his wife, said that she expected him back in Monaco today when they would discuss the merits of surgery, which could save his career.

Aberdeen seek to improve on their indifferent record

By Roddy Forsyth

There is no doubt that the irregularly shaped ball dominates the football codes in Scotland this afternoon, but today also marks the quarter-final stage of this season's Scottish Cup with the prospect of four balanced ties, the most interesting of which, perhaps, is that at Pittodrie where Aberdeen meet Heart of Midlothian.

Aberdeen's record against the Tynecastle side has been indifferent this season and last Saturday's defeat by Hibernian, another of today's last eight, confirmed their discomfort when matched with Edinburgh opposition. Most surprisingly against Hibernian, the experienced Aberdeen defender, Willie Miller, looked brittle but his lack of co-ordination may have been an early symptom of the virus he suffered this week.

Miller has recovered and will play this afternoon, while Ian Robertson, who missed the Hibs outing, is restored to contention. For their parts, Hearts travel north with a full squad.

Celtic, the cup-holders, are expected to go through at their first attempt against Dunfermline.

line at East End Park, especially since Tommy Wilson, Jimmy Nicholl and Eddie Gallagher are all suspended and the Northern Irish winger George O'Boyle is still unable to play because of a knee injury. By contrast, Celtic have only to replace Mike Galloway in midfield, another absentee because of indiscipline, but while the visitors are in the midst of a healthy spell of productive form they have been forcefully reminded in training that Dunfermline beat them at Parkhead earlier this season.

Dundee United and Hibernian meet at Tannadice, where the United manager, Jim McLean, made what was for him an untypical pronouncement earlier this week when he said that his side had the beating of any other in the Scottish Cup. For both clubs, the trophy represents the last honour open to them this season and United's cutting edge is reinforced by the inclusion of Jim McNally in midfield.

Hibernian, however, looked most lively in last week's victory over Aberdeen. An electronic frolic in the trans-

mission of our report of that match suggested that the scorer of the winning goal, Paul Wright, was playing his first match for Hibs since his transfer from Aberdeen.

As it happens, that was literally true, but since he spent some months at Queen's Park Rangers in the interim, Wright is not cup tied and will take part in today's proceedings.

The card is completed by the romantic pairing of Clydebank, of the first division, and Stirling Albion, of the second division. Clydebank, victors over St Mirren on Monday, are weakened at the back by the absence of the suspended Joe Dickson and John Maher and Jim Rodger will do well to recover from a niggling calf injury. For Stirling, Willie Moore is restored after suspension and will bring his influential presence to bear.

Only one replay is allowed should any of the sides fail to resolve their differences but, on Wednesday at least, they will not have to compete with national crusade at Murrayfield.

United must sustain record

By Ian Ross

Although Manchester United's record against Liverpool in League games over the past decade has been nothing short of remarkable, they have rarely secured a victory over their rivals quite as much as they do tomorrow.

If Liverpool should win at Old Trafford, United's plight near the foot of the first division table will deepen appreciably with the prospect of relegation greater than ever. While form does not suggest a United victory, the record books certainly do not favour Liverpool, who have won only two of the last 20 league meetings.

Liverpool declined to name their side yesterday for a game that could prove to be a dress rehearsal for this season's FA Cup Final, but with relatively few injury problems, it is expected to be the one which

defeated Queen's Park Rangers in an FA Cup sixth round replay on Wednesday night.

Rush, the Welsh international forward who played in 4,000 senior games for Liverpool in mid-week, will be seeking his first goal against United in his eighteenth senior appearance against the club. "The fact that I have scored against every first division club except Manchester United did used to bother me but I have been waiting for a goal for so long now that I never cross my mind," he said.

The size of United's task will be increased should Hughes, Rush's Welsh international colleague, fail to recover from a calf injury he sustained during the midweek game against Everton at Old Trafford. The injury is responding slowly to treatment.

Anderson, the former Eng-

land international defender, is, however, available again after injury and he will replace Duxbury at right-back. "It is important that we get something out of this game because we do need as many points as we can against Liverpool. Liverpool does tend to bring the best out of us as a team," said Alex Ferguson, the United manager.

Ronnie Rosenzthal, the Israeli international forward, will play for Liverpool reserves against Manchester United reserves at Anfield today hoping to persuade Kenny Dalglish, the Liverpool manager, to pay Standard Liège, of Belgium, the £450,000 it will take to secure him on a permanent basis.

Rosenzthal had been expected to join Luton Town, but the deal collapsed after the two clubs were unable to agree on a transfer fee.

Anderson, the former Eng-

Plea by clubs to switch tie is turned down

Liverpool and Crystal Palace have been told that their FA Cup semi-final will almost certainly have to remain a midday confrontation.

United, worried about travelling problems for their supporters for the April 8 tie at Villa Park, have made a joint plea to the FA to switch starting times with the other last-four tie.

With both matches being televised live, Oldham and Manchester United must on the same Sunday at Maine Road with a 3.30pm kick-off but Anfield chief executive, Peter Robinson, says it would make sense to have the Liverpool and Palace clash at the same time.

Derby County's young midfielder, Steve Taylor, was yesterday showing signs of recovery after collapsing at the club's training ground on Thursday. The 20-year-old reserve player has been on the critical list at a Nottingham hospital.



Wembley loser: Anders Nielsen going out to Rachid Sidek, of Malaysia, in the third round

Pressure on Whetnall to quit

By Richard Eaton

Paul Whetnall, the England manager, yesterday agreed that he is under pressure to relinquish his job and says that he has not made up his mind whether to ask to have his contract renewed when the time comes in August.

Whetnall, a good coach and an exceptionally decent man, has yet to prove himself a successful manager under difficult conditions of declining financial and playing resources. But English disappointment has been so great recently that there have been rumours he may go.

Whetnall is not directly responsible for performances in individual events, but English efforts in the Thomas and Uber Cup qualifying matches last month were also worrying and

followed failures in the world mixed team championships and the European championships of 1988.

A Finau Smith, England's triple Commonwealth Games gold medalist in Auckland, today won the Badminton Writers' Association award for 1990.

Smith, who has also won the national women's singles title, was named in his first match of this week's All England Championships.

She was joined on the winners' rostrum yesterday by Jeanne Wright, who scooped the BWA's junior award, and the new recruit Gillian Gilks, who won a special prize in recognition of her 111 international caps and 11 All England Championship titles.

Past champions on the march

By Gordon Allan

Singles competition always draws a bigger crowd than any other form of the game and the Melton Mowbray stadium was packed for the English indoor championship yesterday.

Andy Thomson the holder and two other past winners, Tony Alcock and David Bryant, advanced to the quarter-finals but Roy Curne, who won in 1986, lost 21-10 to Alcock after conceding an 18-1 lead.

Thomson had two hard matches - good preparation for even harder ones to come. Steve Cooper, aged 18, from Westcliffe traded shot for shot for much of the game before losing 21-7, and Jack Davies from Brighton took Thomson to the brink, 21-20.

Thomson's next opponent is Jim Mould, who put an end to the aspirations of Martin Mills, aged 17, a Somerset schoolboy in the opening round. Rob Crawshaw a crown green bowler qualified to play Alcock.

Terry Perkins scored three on the decisive end to beat Ron Keating 21-18 - the first time Perkins had been in front. Keating won the national outdoor singles five years ago.

RESULTS: Singles: First round: 1. Davies (Wymondham) 21-17 Scott (Gateshead); 2. Alcock (Gerrards) 21-10 Curne (Wymondham); 3. Bryant (Moss) 21-10; 4. Mould (Brighton) 21-20; 5. Cooper (Epsom) 17-18; 6. Thomson (Brighton) 21-20; 7. Davies (Preston) 21-18; 8. Mould (Brighton) 21-20; 9. Cooper (Epsom) 17-18; 10. Thomson (Brighton) 21-20; 11. Davies (Preston) 21-18; 12. Mould (Brighton) 21-20; 13. Cooper (Epsom) 17-18; 14. Thomson (Brighton) 21-20; 15. Davies (Preston) 21-18; 16. Mould (Brighton) 21-20; 17. Cooper (Epsom) 17-18; 18. Thomson (Brighton) 21-20; 19. Davies (Preston) 21-18; 20. Mould (Brighton) 21-20; 21. Cooper (Epsom) 17-18; 22. Thomson (Brighton) 21-20; 23. Davies (Preston) 21-18; 24. Mould (Brighton) 21-20; 25. Cooper (Epsom) 17-18; 26. Thomson (Brighton) 21-20; 27. Davies (Preston) 21-18; 28. Mould (Brighton) 21-20; 29. Cooper (Epsom) 17-18; 30. Thomson (Brighton) 21-20; 31. Davies (Preston) 21-18; 32. Mould (Brighton) 21-20; 33. Cooper (Epsom) 17-18; 34. 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World sport may lose as map is redrawn

East Germany took the second highest number of gold medals behind the Soviet Union in both the Calgary and Seoul Olympic Games, way ahead of West Germany, respectively in eighth and fifth positions. Together, significantly, the Germans won more than the Soviet Union.

Over the years, East Germany's medals have stemmed from a combination of scientific research and theory, biomechanical and medical knowledge, and a publicly denied but rigorous professional training among a minority of carefully selected elite competitors. Ingenuity has also been a factor.

When East Germany first entered their own Olympic team in 1968, having previously fielded joint teams with the West for three Olympics, they found they could not afford the necessary altitude training increasingly exploited by leading countries to increase aerobic capacity, whether or not competing in Mexico. In consequence, the East Germans developed secretly at Kienbaum, 20 miles south of Berlin, an underground chamber in which they could simulate, for training, high altitude reduced atmospheric pressure conditions.

The idea first arose in discussion with Interfing, the state airline, on the training of pilot Peter Frankel, who would win the 70-kilometre walk in Munich in 1972, came from Halle one day a week to train in a small decompression room used by Interfing in East Berlin; and the construction at Kienbaum, unknown until recent weeks, duly followed his victory.

Even with the disproportionate priority given by their government, through the Sports Ministry (DTSB), East Germany's programme has always been limited by lack of hard currency, forcing them to concentrate for medals on "cheap" events not needing expensive equipment, such as swimming, athletics, cycling, volleyball, canoeing, rowing, gymnastics and skating, and the minority specialist events such as bobsledding and luge.

The danger is that, whatever the eventual social/political form of unification, unless a common monetary system is quickly established, East Germany will continue to lose performance and coaches to the West as a steady debilitating rate. Nearly 100 coaches are already working in the West, including Horst Dieter Hill, one of the most accomplished track coaches, whose pupils included Marius Göttsch, Barbara Wöckel and Renate Stecher. The East German athletic federation has cut its full-time coaching staff from 12 to 4.

"We have no stadium to compare with the competence of Gateshead, where Britain staged the European Cup final," Klaus Huhn,



GERMANY: THE FUTURE IN SPORT

In the second of two articles from Germany, David Miller looks at the significance for sport of their reunification

the dozen of sports journalists with *Neues Deutschland* in East Berlin, says. "We have reached the top with less than half the facilities of the United States. We have only two ice hockey rinks, one open, and only four covered skating rinks."

Those rinks were restricted previously for use by Olympic stars such as Katarina Witt and Jan Hoffman, so that there is little public interest in either figure or speed skating, even though the rinks are now publicly available for the first time. Jutta Müller, Witt's renowned coach, is to give her first international seminar not at Karl-Marx-Stadt but at Oberstdorf in West Germany.

Professor Edelrid Buggel, East Germany's vice-chairman of the International Council of Sports Sciences, says: "Only if the country can return to stability (after this weekend's elections), will the established principles of the GDR again be proved in sport. We have to create some legal restraints within a free society that will prevent the drain of our best human resources abroad."

It is the same problem that confronts British universities. Already the East German government has stipulated that competitors who leave for foreign professional contracts will forfeit all social security benefits at home. The drain in football is steady, if un spectacular: East Germany, which is drawn in the same qualifying group for the 1992 European Championship as West Germany, Belgium, Wales and Luxembourg, has at present few exceptional players to attract the rich Italian, Spanish and West German clubs.

The most notable departure has been Dinamo Berlin's international, Andreas Thom, to Bayer Leverkusen. Others have been Kruse (Rostock to Hertha Berlin), Schuster (Halle to Saarbrücken) and Weiss (Wismuth to Eintracht



Clearance: Schmidt, the shot putter who defected to the West

Frankfurt). Dr Wilfried Gerhardt, the secretary of DFB, the West German federation, says that the two countries will see through the European Championship to conclusion, whatever the political developments. The most conspicuous change is the new and extensive exchange in fixtures between youth and junior clubs for the first time in 30 years, compared with no more than a dozen or so per year during that period. The East no longer needs permission.

So what prospect for a joint Olympic team for 1992 in Albertville and Barcelona? Almost all those to whom I spoke, in East and West, thought 1992 to be too early; especially Jochen Grawwald, the newly elected president of DTSB, Wolfgang Gitter, the Olympic Committee secretary, Heinz Kempa, the International Judo Federation secretary, Karl-Heinz Wehr, the International Amateur Boxing Federation secretary, and Heinz Kadow, the national athletics secretary, in the East; and Walter Tröger, the Olympic secretary, Erika Dienst, of the National Sports Federation, and Professor August Kirch, of the sports institute at Cologne, in the West. Only Willi Daume, the aged and out-of-touch president of the West German Olympic Committee and an IOC member, is pressing for a joint team in 1992.

"We are already preparing, as two, for Barcelona," Kirch says. "It is not just a matter of reducing from six competitors per sport to three, or two teams to one, but it would be emotionally disruptive. Athletes organize their lives over four or five years, even the arrival of their children, in a planned cycle, and we must respect this contract."

"To be realistic for the Nineties, we should not expect too much too soon. We cannot forecast the parameters of all factors: what losses sport will have from changing social conditions in the GDR. We must wait and see. There will not be arithmetic progression from unification."

Gitter points out that the combined team of 1956, 1960 and 1964 was a bad tool of politics, with the athletes the victims. It was more important to gain selection than to perform well in the Games. Nowadays, the two countries collaborate over rivalries. Wolfgang Schmidt, the shot putter who defected to the West and whose residential qualification arrives seven weeks after the European Championships in Split, Yugoslavia, this summer, has been given clearance by East Germany.

An undoubted benefit of a joint team would be the generation of emotional international support for a bid for the Olympic Games



Departure: Thom, the Dinamo Berlin cap, now of Leverkusen

of 2000 in Berlin; another obsession of Daume's. "There has already been a feasibility study by West Berlin", Tröger, who is also sports director of the IOC, says. "There will now be a common feasibility study with the new mayor of East Berlin. We will wait and see what is then decided in September on the host for 1996, and whether, after the Asian Games in Peking, the Chinese decide to bid for 2000. Paris or Milan may also go for 2000. We might prefer 2004."

Wehr, who recently co-

ordinated an international boxing event in West Berlin, says: "The prospect of an Olympic Games in Berlin would provide a wonderful new incentive for young competitors in the GDR."

The strength of a combined Olympic team will depend primarily on the adjustment of East Germany in its present immeasurable evolution within a free market. There has already begun in East Berlin a series of round-table discussions between the DTSB, NOC, all political

parties and the media, on how to balance the shift from elitism to a growth in mass, club sport. "We have abolished Stalinist, centralist administration," Buggel says, "and will create democracy among individual federations and local organizations. They will have to determine their future."

But only West German financial support will enable the East to restart its involvement in abandoned sports such as water polo, basketball, ice and field hockey, modern pentathlon, equestrianism and table tennis. The two athletic federations have signed a contract for co-operation in technical development, for the moment principally favourable to the East. That will have to be the continuing pattern. "It is easy to come together in cycling and athletics," Dienst says, "but many other [East] sports will need big help. Their fencing clubs, say, have little in the way of equipment."

And what of the long-held belief that East Germany has been among the leaders of improvement by drug abuse, at an official level? Although admitting that there have been proven guilty competitors, and possibly some officials, there is an emphatic denial by those with and without a vested interest: not just by prominent performers such as the javelin thrower, Petra Felke, and the swimmer, Kristin Otto.

"People [foreigners] do not understand how we have lifted performance to high levels by strict control, by medical and training disciplines," Buggel says. "We have to find a new understanding of democracy—that freedom does not mean the freedom to be loose and lax. Travel can corrupt. But you cannot reach achievement by giving competitors orders. They are dependent on their own strength of character."

Huhn, who years ago created the highly regarded Prague amateur cycle road race, knows many of the medal winners personally. "You cannot direct competitors if they don't have the will-power and self-motivation," Huhn says.

"It has to be acknowledged that many of our champions got there by sheer hard work. And our medical scientists have very advanced information. They have discovered, for example, that the biochemical instigation of epilepsy enables a competitor to far exceed normal performance. We are in danger of a lot of our stars being destroyed by commercialization."

As Frank Dick, Britain's chief athletics coach, says: "The East German system is discredited. World sport will be the loser. All we can be sure of is that the map of sport was changed at a stroke last November."

GUIDE TO THE WEEKEND FIXTURES

Barclays League

First division

Arsenal v Chelsea
Charlton v North
Coventry v Sheffield W
Derby v Aston
Everton v Ipswich
Luton v Manchester C
Norwich v Millwall
Preston v Tottenham
Wimbledon v Southampton

Championship

QPR v Wolves
Sheff Wed v Bristol
Sheff Utd v Burnley
Sheff Utd v Charlton
Sheff Utd v Luton
Sheff Utd v Millwall
Sheff Utd v Norwich
Sheff Utd v Tottenham
Sheff Utd v Wimbledon

Football League

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Second division

Barnsley v Oldham
Bournemouth v Sunderland
Brighton v Bradford
Leeds v West Ham
Leicester v Port Vale
Middlesbrough v Blackburn
Notts County v Rotherham
Oxford v Luton
Sheff Utd v Wolves
Stoke v Plymouth
Swindon v Hull
West Bromwich v Watford

Football League

Sheff Utd v Burnley
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Third division

Birmingham v Rotherham
Bristol City v Bradford
Bury v Tranmere
Cardiff v Huddersfield
Crewe v Swans
Fulham v Bristol R
L Orient v Luton
Mansfield v Shrewsbury
Notts Co v Walsall
Preston v Northampton
Reading v Blackpool

Football League

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Tennants Scottish Cup

Birmingham v Rotherham
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Rugby Union

Birmingham v Rotherham
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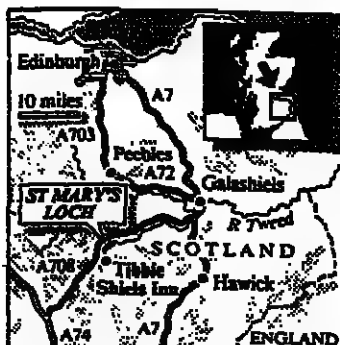
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SPORTS BOOK OF THE WEEK

Pilgrims flock to Tibbie's shrine



Bruce Sandison reveals the spell cast upon Scotland's literary giants by the waters of St Mary's Loch. Their tales are told at the hearth of Tibbie Shiel's Inn, which provided Border hospitality to fishermen through the ages. Good catches are still made by anglers today

St Mary's Loch in Ettrick Forest is a magical place where wizards and fairies still haunt the silent glens; peaceful and serene, surrounded by wild hills and distant moorlands, where curlew call and lark sing. The heartland of the Borders, peopled by a hardy and pragmatic race who have survived the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune for thousands of years.

Throughout history, the Scottish Borders have been both battleground and place of refuge; from Roman times, when Picts were ousted from their great fortress on Eildon Hill; William Wallace and Robert Bruce gained strength from the wilderness; King Henry IV passed this way when he burned the border abbeys in 1400; the tragedy of Flodden Field; the site of a hundred other personal fights and squabbles between rival border clans.

The only battles that rage now by St Mary's Loch, have been caring for travellers and fishermen for nearly 200 years.

The old hostelry, which dates from the late eighteenth century, is one of the most famous in the Scottish Borders. James Hogg, the Ettrick Shepherd, was a regular visitor, as was his friend, Sir Walter Scott. Another of Hogg's friends and drinking companions was Thomas Tod Stoddart, angler and author of the first book on Scottish fishing, *The Art of Angling as Practised in Scotland*, published in 1835 and later republished as *The Angler's Companion to the Rivers and Lakes of Scotland*.

Stoddart was trained as a lawyer, but throughout his life practised little other than fishing. He was stopped on the road once by the local magistrate who inquired what he was doing with himself these days. Outraged, Stoddart roared: "Doing man? Doing? I'm an angler."

Stoddart is best known for his life-long love affair with the River Tweed, and for his verses, of which my favourite is the "Angler's Complaint".

*They've steekit the waters agen us, Jack,
They've steekit the burnies an' a'.*

*We hae na a chief to befrien' us, Jack,
Our laird's aye makin' the law.*

*We'll get neither yallor nor grey-fish, Jack,
Nor bull-head nor sawmon ava'.*

*The laird he's aye at the savin', Jack,
An' haunts us wi' weel wi' his law.*

*Yar flees ye may set them a-bleazin', Jack,
Our wands they may gang to the wa'.*

*It's neither in rhyme nor in reason, Jack,
To coor a kick-up wi' the law.*

*To coor a kick-up wi' the law, Jack,
Tha' lka intent should miscarry, Jack.*

*I diinna wunner ava',
Our laird he's kin to the Shirra, Jack.*

*And sib wi' the loons o' the law,
Bui faith, ye'll agree it's a hard-ship, Jack.*

*To gie up our rights to the craw;
The next time we meet wi' his lairdship, Jack.*

*We promise him licks for his law, An' e'en when the mirk is a-nearin', Jack,
Wi' pock-nets and drag-nets an' a'.*

*We'll gie his bit pounds sic a clearin', Jack,
Our laird he'll look twice to the law. We'll no spare a ged or a gawgon, Jack.*

*We'll no spare a fin or a jaw;
Lord pity the crazy curmudgeon, Jack.*

He'll sune tak his leave o' the law.

Stoddart and James Hogg were expert anglers and fished together many times on St Mary's Loch. One of their most notable days was May 4 1833, when they shared a boat, catching 79 trout weighing 36lb. No doubt they celebrated their victory over a dram or two with Tibbie.

Isobel, "Tibbie Shiel", the first owner of the inn, was born near Ettrick in 1783. In 1806 she married Robert Richardson, who was employed as a mole-catcher on the Thirlestane Estate of Lord Napier. When her husband died suddenly in 1824 Tibbie was left almost destitute with a family of six children; so she decided to set up in business as an innkeeper to provide for her family.

Tibbie Shiel's Inn was much used by anglers who came to fish St Mary's Loch, but because of its association with James Hogg, Thomas Tod Stoddart, Sir Walter Scott, Robert Louis Stevenson, Thomas Carlyle and other literary

figures, it soon became a gathering place for poets, writers and journalists as well. In his excellent booklet, *Tibbie Shiel's*, published in 1986, Michael Robson recounts an early visitor's impressions of the inn:

"The old fashioned kitchen of Tibbie Shiel's Inn was the model of what a kitchen ought to be; it had such an air of cosy warmth and welcoming hospitality. In the vast open fireplace were glowing peat embers, the kettle sang on the hob, the white-faced grandfather's clock ticked beside the 'bink', and was there ever anything so quaintly picturesque as the box-beds with their sliding doors? But best of all was Tibbie's spinning wheel on one side of the hearth, and Sir Walter Scott's armchair on the other."

Another patron of Tibbie's, and friend of the group, was Christopher North, pen name of Professor John Wilson, lawyer and Professor of Moral Philosophy at Edinburgh University in 1820. Wilson described Tibbie as being "a shrewd, kindly, comely woman" and, given Wilson's reputation, Tibbie must have had a strong personality to keep her distinguished guests in order. His friend, William Maguire, wrote of him as: "A sixteen stoner - a cocker, a racer, a six-bottler, a twenty-four tumbler - an out and outer - a true upright, knocking-down, poetical, prosaic, moral, professional, hard-drinking, fierce-eating, good-looking honourable, and straight-forward Tory."

John Wilson was a well-known sportsman and keen angler. He bestowed upon himself such titles as MA, Master of Angling, and FRS, Fisherman Royal of Scotland; but he is best remembered for his column in *Blackwoods Magazine*. The articles were written under his pen name "Christopher North" and describe the adventures and exploits of North and the Shepherd, who was James Hogg, and Tackler, John Gibson Lockhart, who married Sophia, Sir Walter Scott's elder daughter. Lockhart was described by Hogg as: "A mischievous Oxford puppy for whom I was terrified; dancing after the young ladies and drawing caricatures of everyone who came in contact with him."

North's *Noctes Ambrosianae* and later *Recreations of Christopher North* lampooned polite Edinburgh society and were instantly popular. They included frequent references to the great angling exploits of the Shepherd, as in *Splendide Mendax*, when Hogg "lops" one of North's fishing tales:

Shepherd: "Poo, that was nae day's fishin' ava, man, in comparison to aye o' mine on St Mary's Loch. To say naething about the countess sma' anes, twa hunder about half a pun', five-and-twenty references to the great angling exploits of the Shepherd, as in *Splendide Mendax*, when Hogg "lops" one of North's fishing tales:

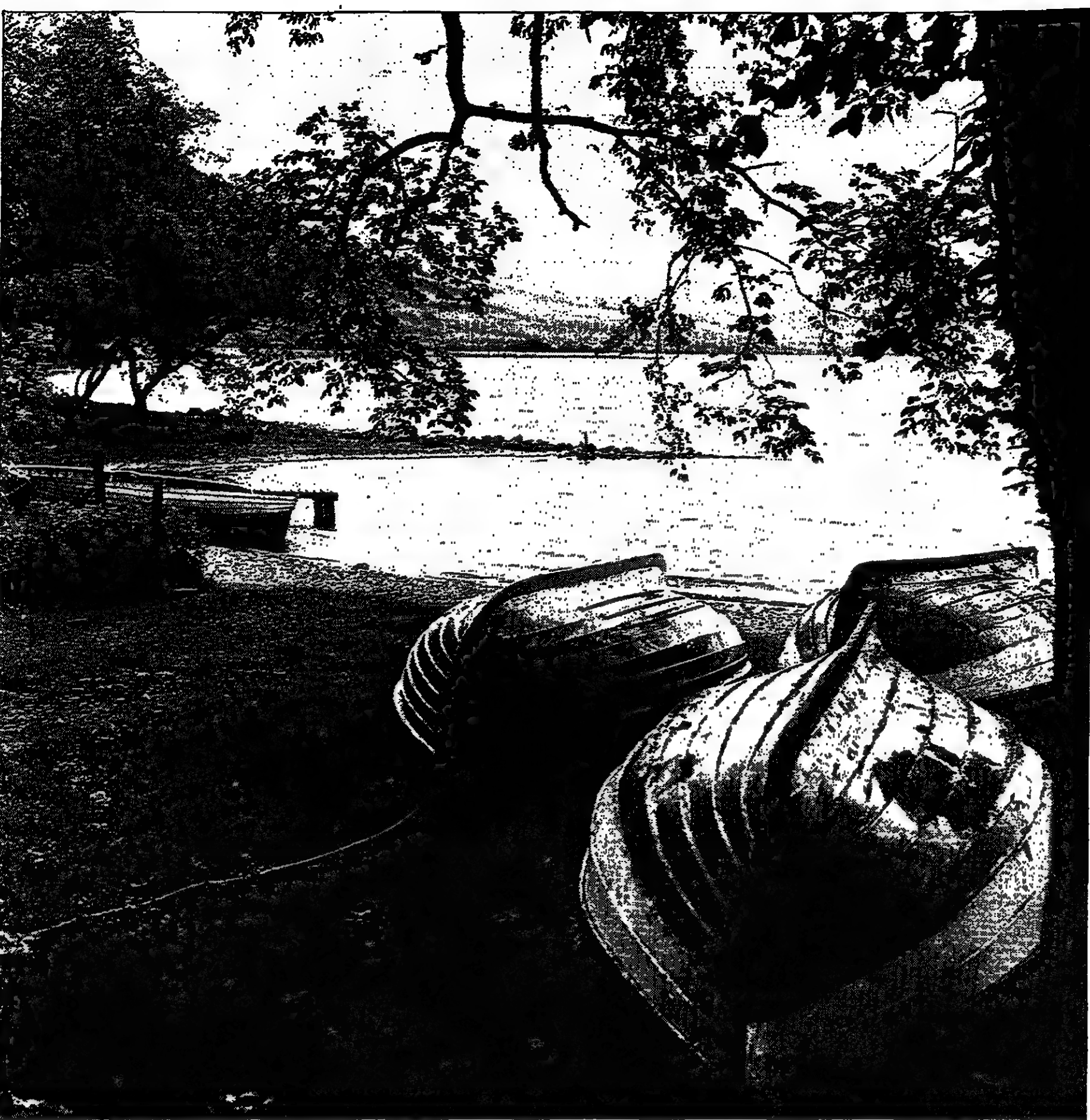
Shepherd: "Poo, that was nae day's fishin' ava, man, in comparison to aye o' mine on St Mary's Loch. To say naething about the countess sma' anes, twa hunder about half a pun', five-and-twenty references to the great angling exploits of the Shepherd, as in *Splendide Mendax*, when Hogg "lops" one of North's fishing tales:

Tibbie outlived most of her more famous customers and died in July 1878 at the age of 96, but the memory of the charm of the innkeeper by St Mary's Loch and her famous customers lives on. Tibbie Shiel's is a place of pilgrimage to this day.

I was first introduced to James Hogg in the Lyceum Theatre, Edinburgh, during the International Festival, when Ann and I attended a stage production of his novel, *The True Confession of a Justified Sinner*. There was a lot of shouting and running about, dramatic gestures and sparse, unworried scenery, so I nudged Ann, and we slipped quietly from the theatre, down the street to the nearest pub.

James Hogg, the Ettrick Shepherd, was born in 1770 and he described his great novel as a revelation that "salvation was not contingent upon faith, but was the effect of justification, of grace". I still find the book hard to understand, but readily acknowledge its stature as one of the most significant works of Scottish literature.

Hogg's poetry, however, is another matter and in it I believe, he sometimes rivals Burns and frequently surpasses Sir Walter Scott, his friend and mentor.



Magical place: St Mary's Loch in Ettrick Forest, which has inspired great exploits with rod and line down the centuries, attracting the worship of several noted Scottish authors

'The rough roads must have been jammed with artists and literati, notebooks poised'

*See yonder pawkie shepherd,
That lingers on the hill,
His eyes are in the fauld,
An' his lambs are lying still;
Yet he dawns gang to bed,
For his heart is in a flame,
To see his bonny lassie,
When the kye comes hame.*

Hogg was a border shepherd, born at Ramsaycleugh in the Ettrick Forest, son of an impoverished farmer. He had little formal education and confessed that even at the age of 20 he had difficulty reading and writing.

Like Robert Burns, Hogg was influenced by his family and surroundings. His parents were deeply religious and much given to long, scriptural arguments. Their stern Calvinistic faith was nurtured by one of the Borders' most famous preachers, Thomas Boston. People would walk miles each Sunday to hear Boston preach and his congregation generally numbered upwards of 700 thirsting souls.

Hogg's grandfather, known as "Will o' the Phaun", was reputed to have conversed with the fairies, and Hogg liked to refer to himself as "King of the Mountain Fairy School" of poets. The songs he composed for local girls brought him great popularity, but throughout his life, as poet, writer and novelist, Hogg never achieved the recognition his work deserved, in spite of constant support and encouragement from Scott.

Hogg and Sir Walter Scott were introduced to each other in 1802, by John Leyden, another shepherd's son and poet, when Scott was collecting stories and tales for his *Border Minstrelsy*. James Hogg's mother was well known in the area as a positive mine of such information, and the two men struck up a friendship that lasted all their lives. Hogg said Scott was "the best and most steady friend I ever had to depend on."

Hogg's mother was not so certain about Sir Walter, or his inquisitiveness concerning traditional Border ballads, and she is reported to have told the great man, crossly: "They were made for singin' and no' for reading; but ye hae broken the charm an' noo they'll never be sung mair."

Scott's namesake, Michael Scott, might have agreed. He was known as "Scott the Wizard" and Sir Walter claimed him as an ancestor. The Wizard was born in 1175 and after an extensive education, at Oxford, Paris and Bologna in Italy, lived most of his life in the Borders. He is reputed

to have set a devil to work, to keep him from harming the local community. The devil's first task was splitting the Eildon Hills into three parts, then constructing a stone dam across the River Tweed. The final task, which kept the devilish intruder busy for ever, was to weave a rope, out of sand. The "wondrous wizard's" grave may still be seen to this day at Melrose Abbey.

During the latter years of the eighteenth century this small corner of the Borders was home to a remarkable number of outstanding men. John Leyden, born at Denholm on September 8 1775, was a poet and Orientalist of international fame. After graduating from St Andrews University, Leyden took up a medical appointment in Madras, India, and translated the Bible into several Far Eastern languages. He died in Java on August 28 1811.

Mungo Park, the explorer, another farmer's son, was born at Foulshields, on September 20 1771, near the "Meeting of the Waters", where the rivers Ettrick and Yarrow mingle; and as a surgeon, he joined the East India Company in 1792. Three years later he was employed by the African Association to explore the River Niger, which he followed almost to Timbuktu. Park's book of his journey, *Travels in the Interior Districts of Africa, Performed in the years 1795, 1796 and 1797* is a masterpiece of its kind and Thomas Carlyle described Park as being: "One of the most unpretending and at the same time valuable specimens of humanity."

But no man is ever a hero in his own home, and the story is told of Mungo returning from one of his expeditions to his parents' house. When the explorer knocked on the door, late one evening, his mother inquired: "Who in the world could that be?" One of Park's brothers is reputed to have replied: "Oh, that will be our Mungie. I saw him at the market the day."

After a short period as a doctor in Peebles, in 1805 Park set out on a mission for Africa, along with his brother-in-law, Thomas Anderson, and 45 British soldiers and a large contingent of native porters. The expedition ended in disaster. After a canoe journey of some 1,000 miles, Park and his companions were attacked by natives at Yuri. During the fight their vessel capsized and they

drowned. Only three soldiers and one native bearer survived.

But perhaps the most famous Border man was Walter Scott, born in Edinburgh in 1771 where his father was a lawyer. His mother, Anne Rutherford, was the daughter of Dr John Rutherford, Professor of Medicine at Edinburgh University; and both parents were descended from ancient Border families: the Scotts of Harden and Buccleuch, and, on his mother's side, the Swintons.

Scott's early years were spent at his grandfather's farm at Sandyknowe, near the old Border tower of Smailholm. An attack of poliomyelitis as a child left Scott lame for life, but nevertheless, he was a tall, strong man, noted for his outdoor and sporting interests.

Smailholm must have greatly influenced the young Scott. The gaunt, dramatic tower stands on a rock ledge, 700 feet high, dominating the surrounding landscape. Similar Pele Towers are scattered throughout the Borders, watch-towers and forts against the incursions from across the border.

The disaster of Flodden Field in September 1513, when the flower of Scotland fell around their impetuous king, James IV, prompted the building of these towers. An Act of Parliament in 1535 ordered that any man owning land worth more than £100 should build a Pele Tower for the protection of his dependants; and even as late as 1804, fires were placed on the towers to warn of approaching danger, should Napoleon succeed in his plans to invade Britain.

Scott is, in my opinion, the outstanding figure of Scottish literature; and I first met Sir Walter Scott, who persuaded the editor of the *Scotts Magazine* to publish them as a series of articles which appeared in that magazine from 1802 until 1804.

Hogg tramped many weary miles, faithfully recording his impressions along the way, and his account tells as much about the writer as it does about what he reports of the countryside. His personal diary reveals a kind, thoughtful, decent man, with a wonderful sense of humour, courteous and friendly at all times and in all circumstances.

In 1802, Hogg travelled from Ettrick (Hogg's spelling), by way of Edinburgh to Perth, then on to Blair-in-Athol and Dalnacardoch. The following year he toured the Highlands, leaving home on 27

May and arriving in the Trossachs on 29 May; visiting Rob Roy's home at Glen Gyle by Loch Katrine, and Inveraray Castle on Wednesday, June 1. From Inveraray, Hogg went north, to Fort William, Lochaber, Kinlochewe and Dumdonnet; and then over the Minch to the Outer Hebrides and the "heather isle" of Lewis.

Hogg's last tour in 1804, took him, mostly by sea, to Argyllshire, the Braes of Ardnamurchan and back to the Outer Hebrides. He was so enraptured with the island of Harris that he considered moving there permanently. But the journey almost cost him his life when their vessel, the *Johnson*, "a strong, English-built sloop", was nearly wrecked in Loch Sunart in a mighty gale, vividly described by Hogg in his letters.

James Hogg was a happy man, who enjoyed his hard, active life, saying that he couldn't "distinguish one part from another, save by some remarkably good days' fishing."

St Mary's Loch still keeps anglers happy and content and although the great days of Hogg, Stoddart and Wilson have long since gone, good catches are often taken. Brown trout average approximately 10oz in weight and most seasons produce a few fish over 3 lb. As always, it is all a matter of being in the right place at the right time, with the correct fingers crossed.

West of Tibbie Shiel's Inn is a statue of Hogg, holding his shepherd's crook, stone-deep in thought, watching rising trout he may no longer catch, hearing new voices telling old stories of ones that got away. In his hand is a scroll inscribed with the words from his poem, "The Queen's Wake": "He taught the wandering winds to winge."

And in the bar, the ghosts of the literary "old boys" of the loch gather round: Thomas Stoddart, choosing a fly; Lochart, eyeing a pretty barmaid; John Wilson, warming himself for the fray with a large dram; Sir Walter, nodding by the fireplace; all still kept in good order and splendid discipline by the shades of Tibbie, one of the Borders most enduring and best-loved characters.

This is an extract from *Tales of the Loch* by Bruce Sandison, to be published on May 3 by Mainstream Publishing of Edinburgh (£9.95).

EQUESTRIANISM

Absentees clear the path for Whitaker

From Jenny MacArthur
of Hertenbosch

John Whitaker's chances of winning his — and Britain's — first show-jumping Volvo World Cup in next month's final in Dortmund, West Germany, have dramatically increased following the withdrawal of two of the favourites for this year's competition — Ian Miller's Big Ben from Canada and Thomas Fuchs' Dollar Girl.

Big Ben, winner of the Cup for the last two years, was operated on for a twisted gut last Sunday and will be out of competitions for at least two months. Miller is hoping that he may be fit again in time for the World Championships in Stockholm in July.

The leading Swiss rider, Fuchs, who Whitaker singled out earlier this week as his other main rival, will be out of competition for at least two months after breaking ribs and his left leg while trying to help a "case" horse in his stable.

With Henderson Milton — on which Whitaker was second to Miller in last year's final — going better than ever, Whitaker is unlikely to have a better chance of winning the elusive Cup.

Tomorrow the pair, who won the Paris World Cup qualifier last week, attempt to repeat that feat here in the penultimate qualifying round.

Jennie Loriston-Clarke on Dutch Gold, Britain's only contender in the Nations Dressage World Cup final, is lying seventh after yesterday's Gold Prix test and will have to find some extra brilliance in today's Freestyle to Music competition, the last part of the final, if they are to equal their fourth position of last year. Dutch Gold, a son of her former top horse Dutch Courage, made some small mistakes and was less relaxed than he had been when finishing third in the Paris qualifier last week.

The Grand Prix was won convincingly by Sven Rothenberger, of West Germany, on Andiamo, one of the favourites to win the final. He finished 55 points ahead of the runner-up, Michael Klimke, the son of Reiner, West Germany's most successful dressage rider, on Entenroter.

Entenroter, a son of Memors from the Soviet Union took third place with Dikson. Prize money for the final is to be substantially increased to SwFr100,000 (about £40,000) next year when Volvo is to take over the sponsorship.

Loriston-Clarke, a specialist in the Freestyle to Music competition, should benefit from the new formula for future dressage championships announced yesterday by Wolfgang Niggli, the chairman of the dressage committee. A Freestyle to Music final is to be introduced in 1991 as an alternative to the existing final, the Grand Prix Special, with two sets of medals being awarded.

RESULTS: Specialities 1, Venezuela 12, 2, 10, 3, 11, 4, 12, 5, 13, 6, 14, 7, 15, 8, 16, 9, 17, 10, 18, 11, 19, 12, 20, 13, 21, 14, 22, 15, 23, 16, 24, 17, 25, 18, 26, 19, 27, 20, 28, 21, 29, 22, 30, 23, 31, 24, 32, 25, 33, 26, 34, 27, 35, 28, 36, 29, 37, 30, 38, 31, 39, 32, 40, 33, 41, 34, 42, 35, 43, 36, 44, 37, 45, 38, 46, 39, 47, 40, 48, 41, 49, 42, 50, 43, 51, 44, 52, 45, 53, 46, 54, 47, 55, 48, 56, 49, 57, 50, 58, 51, 59, 52, 60, 53, 61, 54, 62, 55, 63, 56, 64, 57, 65, 58, 66, 59, 67, 60, 68, 61, 69, 62, 70, 63, 71, 64, 72, 65, 73, 66, 74, 67, 75, 68, 76, 69, 77, 70, 78, 71, 79, 72, 80, 73, 81, 74, 82, 75, 83, 76, 84, 77, 85, 78, 86, 79, 87, 80, 88, 81, 89, 82, 90, 83, 91, 84, 92, 85, 93, 86, 94, 87, 95, 88, 96, 89, 97, 90, 98, 91, 99, 92, 100, 93, 101, 94, 102, 95, 103, 96, 104, 97, 105, 98, 106, 99, 107, 100, 108, 101, 109, 102, 110, 103, 111, 104, 112, 105, 113, 106, 114, 107, 115, 108, 116, 109, 117, 110, 118, 111, 119, 112, 120, 113, 121, 114, 122, 115, 123, 116, 124, 117, 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Queen's Bench Division

Law Report March 17 1990

Right to change use without planning consent

South Ribblesdale Borough Council v Secretary of State for the Environment and Others
Before Mr Justice Judge
[Judgment March 13]

The right to make a material change of use without planning permission under section 23(9) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1971 was not restricted to the use obtaining before the act of development used to constitute breach of planning control.

Mr Justice Judge held in a reserved judgment in the Queen's Bench Division in dismissing an appeal brought by South Ribblesdale Borough Council to quash the decision of an inspector appointed by the Secretary of State for the Environment to vary an enforcement notice dated February 15, 1988 served on Mr William Swain, owner of the site, and others.

Section 23 of the 1971 Act provides: "(9) Where an enforcement notice has been issued in respect of any development of land, planning permission is not required for the use of that land for the purposes for which... it could lawfully have been used if that development had not been carried out."

Mr Andrew Gilbert for the borough council, Mr Nigel Manning for the secretary of state, and Mr Stephen Savva for Mr Swain.

MR JUSTICE JUDGE said the enforcement notice related

to land at Peel View, Drummace Lane, Longton. The appellants were the local planning authority and the breach of planning control alleged was a material change in the use of the land without the grant of planning permission.

The use from which the land had been changed was mixed use of residential, forestry/agricultural, haulage and general dealing use. The use to which the land was being put was mixed residential, haulage, industrial sales and storage use.

The steps required to remedy the breach were to cease the use of the land for haulage, industrial sales and storage uses and move from the land all items and equipment used in connection with those uses.

The enforcement notice related to the whole planning unit on the site.

In the course of his decision letter, the inspector determined the appeals by varying the enforcement notice. The effect was that the site should be divided into an eastern and a western half. On the eastern half the use of the land for haulage, industrial sales and storage uses should cease altogether and all items and equipment connected with such uses should be removed.

On the western side such uses should also cease and items and equipment used in connection with such uses should be removed, save for the use of haulage business with a minor use for trading in vehicles to the extent established by a previous decision of the secretary of state

on September 14, 1977.

From the decision it followed that the western half of the site could be used for a haulage business with a minor use for trading in vehicles. That conclusion was at the heart of the present appeal.

In the course of his decision letter, the inspector referred to the principle in *Mansel v Gloucester Rural District Council* (1964) 62 LGR 172. That principle was well established and had been repeatedly recognized.

The basic argument for the appellants was that the decision in *Mansel* was wrong or had been misunderstood. Its application since 1964 represented an inappropriate and dangerous statutory framework laid down by the 1971 Act.

Decisions of the Court of Appeal and the House of Lords demonstrated the error and the *Mansel* principle should be regarded as overruled at any rate so far as it was applied to "established use" immunities.

Its application was limited to uses which existed before the "appointed day," July 1, 1948.

The decisions in *LTSS Print and Supply Services v Hackney Borough Council* (1976) 1 QB 663, *Young v Secretary of State for the Environment* (1983) 2 AC 662, *Thruswell v Secretary of State for the Environment* (1990) 2 WLR 1 and *Cynon Valley Borough Council v Secretary of State for the Environment* (1986) 53 P & C R 68 were fundamental to the appellants' submission that the *Mansel* principle had been substantially overruled.

The argument was that the right to make a material change of use without planning permission under section 23(9) of the 1971 Act was restricted to the use obtaining before the act of development alleged to be a breach of planning control.

An earlier law use might be resumed if the use before the relevant act of development was itself unlawful. Such change of use was an act of development itself requiring planning permission.

The decision in *Mansel* was not referred to in any of the judgments or speeches. There was a note in *Young* that *Mansel* was cited as authority. It seemed reasonable to infer that when *Mansel* was cited it was at best a fleeting reference. Beyond that rather vague reference *Mansel* did not appear to have been cited in any of those cases.

The decision in *Mansel* was based on the terms of section 46 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1962. That required the minister, *inter alia*, in an appropriate case to vary the terms of an enforcement notice in favour of the appellant. The equivalent statutory provisions in section 45 and 46 of the 1962 Act were to be found in sections 87, 88, 88A and 88B of the 1971 Act, as substituted by the Local Government and Planning (Amendment) Act 1981.

The Secretary of State found that land was used as a plant nursery. There were a number of glass houses, one of which was used for retail sales of nursery produce. In 1959 that use was

intensified. The glass house was used as a shop.

The enforcement notice alleged that the glass house had changed from use for agricultural purposes to use for the sale of goods and required its discontinuation.

The court found that the appellant occupier was entitled to continue the use as it was in 1959 and might also have a right to intensify that use provided he did not thereby occasion a material change in use.

Despite the fact that the *Mansel* principle was not expressly considered in *LTSS Young*, *Thruswell* and *Cynon Valley* and that sections 87, 88 and 94 were not immediately relevant, his Lordship would be bound by those decisions if their effect was to overrule the *Mansel* principle.

However, it would be unfortunate if a single judge were obliged to cast doubt on a principle first stated some 25 years ago, followed consistently since then and standing unchallenged until the present appeal. The effect would be to create uncertainty and confusion in an area of law now long regarded as clear and settled.

His Lordship's conclusion was that the principle in *Mansel* had not been affected by those decisions. There was no inconsistency or difficulty with the principle nor with reconciling it with the statutory provisions in section 23(9) of the 1971 Act.

Solicitors: Mr A. Kitchen, Leyland; Treasury Solicitor; Marland Quigley, Preston.

Ratepayer's error renders application to remove property from list invalid

Regina v Northamptonshire Local Valuation Court and Another, Ex parte Anglian Water Authority
Before Lord Justice Neill, Lord Justice Nicholls and Lord Justice Butler-Sloss
[Judgment March 12]

A fundamental error made by a ratepayer on a proposal form to have a property expunged from the local valuation list invalidated his application. Correction of the error by a valuation officer on receipt of the form did not make good that application.

The Court of Appeal so held in allowing an appeal by East Northamptonshire District Council in proceedings for judicial review from a judgment of Mr Justice Popplewell in March 1989 that the proposal by the ratepayer, the Anglian Water Authority, applying to amend the valuation list by the deletion from it of Broadholme Sewage Treatment Works was valid.

Mr Jeremy Sullivan, QC and Mr Peter Village for the district council, Mr William Glover, QC and Mr Richard Glover for the water authority; the valuation court did not appear.

LORD JUSTICE NICHOLLS said that the appeal arose from a clerical error made in filling up a form. It was potentially a costly error - some three-quarters of a million pounds hung on the outcome of the case.

The water authority operated a sewerage treatment works. In March 1985 it had served on the local valuation officer on the prescribed forms proposals for 40 such works to be expunged from the valuation list on the ground that the value of those hereditaments was not reflected in the authority's overall assessment.

One of the proposal forms - the disputed proposal form - named and gave the address of Broadholme Sewage Treatment Works. However, in 1985 there were no such works. They had ceased to function in 1982. But half a mile away and in the same rating area, the water authority did have another and separate sewage works called Broadholme.

Clearly there had been an error in the water authority's office: among the 40 forms completed, no proposal form related to Broadholme.

It was known that when the "Broadholme" form was received by the rating authority,

at the foot of the form in the space set aside for use by the valuation officer only, the name and address of the Broadholme works had been entered. Presumably those particulars had been completed by the valuation officer or a member of his staff.

In due course the water authority received notification that the valuation officer objected to the disputed proposal and thus the matter had been referred to the valuation court.

In March 1988 that court decided that the proposal form was invalid and that Broadholme could not therefore be expunged from the valuation list; the information, it held, was not sufficient to enable Broadholme to be identified as the subject of the proposal form.

Mr Justice Popplewell quashed that decision, declaring the disputed form to be good and valid in relation to Broadholme.

By section 69(1) of the General Rate Act 1967 any "aggrieved person" could make a proposal for the valuation list to be altered in respect of a particular hereditament. By section 69(5) every such proposal had to be in writing, to specify the grounds on which the proposed alteration was supported and to comply with the Valuation Lists (Proposals for Alteration) Regulations (SI 1974 No 2213).

Regulation 3 required a proposal to be in specified form "substantially to the like effect". By section 70 of the 1967 Act copies of the proposal had to be served by the valuation officer on certain persons.

As could be expected, the legislation was contemplating that the proposal form would contain a description of the hereditament sufficient to enable those concerned to identify it. It was a public document and by section 108 of the 1967 Act it was open to inspection.

The court had been referred to *R v Winchester Area Assessment Committee* (1948) 2 KB 455. It was clear from that decision, and was common ground, that the only question that arose was whether the disputed form had sufficiently identified Broadholme as being the subject matter of the water authority's proposal.

It was to be noted that the "valuation officer's box" on the form was not part of the proposal. Nor were there any statutory provisions enabling a

Represented parties are not within discovery rule

Ventouris v Mountain
Before Mr Justice Saville
[Judgment February 23]

Represented parties in a representative action were not "party" to the proceedings within Order 15, rule 12(3) of the Rules of the Supreme Court.

Legal professional privilege could be claimed for documents which had been obtained by solicitors to a party to actual or contemplated litigation but which had not come into being for the purpose of that litigation.

Mr Justice Saville so held in the Queen's Bench Division, in a judgment in open court after a hearing in chambers, when refusing the application of the plaintiff, Apostolos Konstantinos Ventouris, under Order 24, rule 3, that the defendant, Trevor Rex Mountain, sued on his own behalf and on behalf of all other insurers and/or underwriters who subscribed to a marine war risks policy, provide a list of documents better list of certain documents.

Mr Stephen Hoffmeyer for the plaintiff, Mr Andrew Popplewell for the defendant.

MR JUSTICE SAVILLE said that two points of general importance arose.

The first arose from the fact that the defendant was sued in representative proceedings as representing himself and all other underwriters who subscribed to the policy upon which the plaintiff claimed.

The question was whether the court had power to order either

the representative underwriter or the represented underwriters to disclose documents in his possession, custody or power of the latter but not the former.

It was clear that the court had power to order a party to the proceedings to make discovery of documents which were or had been in his possession, custody or power.

If the reason why documents fell within the general rule was because they had been obtained by solicitors for the purposes of the litigation, and if the disclosure of such documents would be likely to undermine the confidence between solicitor and client, his Lordship could see no reason for distinguishing between documents that had and those that had not been brought into existence for the purposes of the litigation.

His Lordship said that it might be suggested that if the privilege extended to original documents (as opposed to copies) obtained by solicitors for the purposes of litigation, a ready means presented itself for obtaining and then suppressing material adverse evidence. That was not so.

Solicitors who obtained documents for the purpose of suppressing them would not be acting in the course of giving necessary legal advice and assistance, but in breach of their duties as officers of the court. Thus no privilege would attach to such documents.

Solicitors: Hill Taylor Dickinson; Ince & Co.

effective preparations for trial by the solicitors. Indeed, it was impossible to employ a solicitor at all.

The privilege was an exception to the general rule that a party to litigation should disclose all documents that were or had been in his possession, custody or power.

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Solicitors: Hill Taylor Dickinson; Ince & Co.

Purchasers obtain title free from charging order

Howell v Montey
Before Lord Justice Fox and Lord Justice Stocker
[Judgment March 7]

Although registration of the charge of a house to a house which was registered land took effect subject to a charging order nisi upon the house, the purchasers, having bought the house with notice of the charging order, obtained title free from the charging order.

The Court of Appeal, in a reserved judgment, dismissed an appeal by the plaintiff, Mr Ian Geoffrey Howell, from the discharge by Judge Main at Guildford County Court of a charging order absolute upon a house at 41 Veyan, St John's, Woking, formerly the property of the defendants, Mr Gary Montey and Mrs Deborah Montey, but now belonging to the purchasers, Ms Nicola Shireen Murray and Mr Christopher Stamp.

Mr Jonathan Brock for Mr Howell; Mr J. Stephen Whitaker for the purchasers.

LORD JUSTICE FOX said that on July 9, 1986 the plaintiff recovered judgment against the defendants in Guildford County Court in the sum of £2,173. The defendants owned the freehold house and on August 3, 1987 the plaintiff obtained a charging order nisi upon the house for £2,173.

On August 12, 1987 the defendants entered into a contract for the sale of the house to the purchasers. On August 17, 1987 the purchasers obtained from the Land Registry a certificate of search which gave priority until September 29, 1987. The sale of the house was completed on September 4, 1987.

On September 16, the plaintiff made an application to the Land Registry to register notice of the charging order against the title to the house.

On September 29, the priority period conferred by the certificate of search expired without the purchasers having applied to register their title to the house. The result was that the charging order, when it was effected, took effect subject to the charging order nisi, which was made absolute on December 16, 1987.

On the purchasers' application, the registrar discharged the charging order. The judge dis-

missed the plaintiff's appeal against the registrar's decision.

The power to discharge was given by section 35(5) of the Charging Orders Act 1979, which was expressed in wide terms: "The court by which a charging order was made may at any time... make an order discharging the order or varying the charging order."

In the case of registered land, if the prospective purchaser made a search before completion and the charging order was not then registered, he would obtain a title free from the charging order if he made his application for the discharge of the title before his priority period expired.

The priority obtained by the plaintiff in the present case was just luck because of the delay in registration of the title.

The consequence of the making of the charging order absolute was that a charging order was made upon property in which the plaintiff's debtors had, at the date of that order, no beneficial interest.

The fact that the order absolute was imposed upon the property of a bona fide purchaser for value without any notice of the charge was a material consideration in deciding whether it would be just to discharge the order absolute.

It seemed to his Lordship that the order absolute should not have been made. Looking at all the circumstances of the case, it seemed to him that the balance of the equities came down decisively on the side of the purchasers.

It was true that the purchasers might, if the charge was binding upon them, have a cause of action against the defendants (on the covenants for title or against their solicitors (for negligence in not registering the title sooner)).

Those considerations were not relevant. The purchasers were entitled to take such action as they thought appropriate for the protection of their interests. They chose to apply to discharge the charging order. The plaintiff could not complain that they could have done something else.

The judge reached the right conclusion and, in the exercise of his discretion, properly discharged the order absolute.

Lord Justice Stocker agreed.

Solicitors: Mort Kirtley & Ogden, Woking; Barton Hanning & Francis, Woking.

Confessions obtained in absence of solicitor cause court concern

Regina v Moss
Before Lord Justice Taylor, Mr Justice Mann-Jones and Mr Justice Watie
[Judgment March 9]

Confessions obtained during a series of interviews at which no solicitor was present, from a man who was just above the level of mental handicap and who had been held in custody for nine days, should not have been allowed to go to the jury and were insufficient basis for a conviction.

The Court of Appeal (Criminal Division) so held in allowing an appeal by Frank Moss against his conviction at Chester Crown Court (Mr Justice Auld and a jury) on counts of indecent assault on a girl aged five or six and three counts of indecent assault on males under 16 years of age. The appellant was sentenced to five years imprisonment.

Mr Eric Somerset Jones, QC, who did not appear below, and Mr Guy Goren, assigned by the Registrar of Criminal Appeals, for the appellant; Mr Maurice Kay, QC, for the prosecution.

LORD JUSTICE TAYLOR said that the only evidence against the appellant was his confession. There was no other evidence.

The appellant was held in custody for nine days after his arrest and interviewed nine times. He had asked to see a solicitor within seven hours of

his arrest and after two interviews. The request was refused and a block was put on his having legal representation for 36 hours.

On the second day at the fifth interview, when the appellant was still without legal representation, he made the first admission and was charged. He had not been asked whether he was content to be interviewed without a solicitor present.

The appellant was then allowed access to a solicitor. However, the same solicitor was also acting for the appellant's co-accused and had to withdraw within 24 hours due to a conflict of interest.

The crucial interview at which the appellant made the main admissions was the eighth and took place when the appellant had been in custody for six days and was still without a solicitor.

The had judge ruled that the block on legal representation for the first 36 hours was in breach of section 58 of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984. He excluded the ninth interview but ruled that the rest could go before the jury.

The appeal was based upon section 76(2) of the 1984 Act, which put the burden of proof on the crown to exclude the possibility that a confession might be unreliable, and under section 78, which provided for the exclusion of unfair evidence.

His Lordship said that it was to be noted that the crucial

interview was one where the appellant had not been asked whether he wanted a solicitor.

In evidence he had said that he went ahead with the interview because he felt he could not wait for a solicitor. That was the sort of answer to be expected from a mentally handicapped person.

It was disturbing that within the interview evidence itself there was an impression whether answers which at first appeared to be unequivocal were indeed so when coming from a man of limited intelligence.

The prosecution relied on section 77 which clearly contemplated a situation where a case turned on a confession by a mentally handicapped person who had been without a legal adviser.

However, section 77 simply dealt with a confession which might well have been obtained in the course of an interview during a short period of custody. That was clearly distinguishable from the instant case.

Each member of the court felt troubled about the concession evidence having gone to the jury. Each member of the court believed the verdict was unsafe and unsatisfactory if left to stand. Where there was such unanimity of impression the proper course was to allow the appeal.

Solicitors: CPS, Chester.

Independent valuer can take account of late offer to buy

In re a Company (No 002708 of 1989)
In re a Company (No 004247 of 1989)
Before Mr Justice Knox
[Judgment March 6]

An independent valuer was entitled to take account of an offer to purchase shares in a private company which was made the day after the date upon which the value of the shares was to be assessed by him.

Mr Justice Knox so held in the Chancery Division in proceedings between members of the company who were parties to an agreement to purchase the shares.

Mr John Brisby and Mr Robert Miles for the purchaser; Mr Jonathan Crow for the vendors.

MR JUSTICE KNOX said that he had before him two cross-petitions under section 459 of the Companies Act 1985, which had been substantially compromised but there was an outstanding issue, namely whether a letter received by the vendors after they had accepted an offer from the purchaser was admissible before the independent valuer. In that letter an offer was made by a member of the company to purchase the shares in question for £700,000.

The vendors submitted that

the letter making that offer was admissible and contended, *inter alia*, that the date on which the valuation was to be made was the date it was made, and not the date on which the sale agreement was made, by acceptance of the previous offer, on February 21, 1990; but in any event under the general law, a valuer was entitled to have regard to valuation evidence such as comparables, as confirmatory evidence of the state of affairs subsisting at the date on which the valuation fell to be made.

In his Lordship's judgment, the date at which the valuation fell to be made was the date of the letter of acceptance, February 21, 1990. The transaction was one which fell within the principles in *Subbrook Trading Ltd v Eggleston* (1983) 1 AC 444, 483G.

His Lordship had been referred to a line of cases starting with *Swindon and Mersey Docks Steam Collieries (1891) Ltd v Pontypridd Waterworks Co* (1903) AC 426 and ending with *Sagana NV v Fenny Le Roy Ltd* (1983) 269 EG 329, a case which concerned the problem of post-valuation comparables.

Mr Brisby had argued that a later offer was similar to a change in the market price and was not a guide to the value at the valuation date.

It seemed to his Lordship that

that was so only if one assumed that value resided solely in existing transactions and offers. That was not a necessary assumption.

What was being sought was the value of a parcel of shares. Value was what a purchaser would pay.

Evidence of an offer made one day after the valuation date seemed, potentially, to be evidence of the existence of a bidder on the valuation date, who was just plucking up his courage to bid what he did in fact bid the next day.

His Lordship used the word "potentially" because an offer was only an offer, all the more so because it was subject to contract. His Lordship was not concerned with those considerations for which a valuer could and should make such discounts as were appropriate.

If it were shown that the offer was not genuine no doubt it would fall to be wholly ignored, but on the question whether it should be regarded as inadmissible, because it was a post-valuation event, his Lordship, taking perhaps a realist rather than a purist view, did not consider that the valuer should be required to ignore it altogether.

Solicitors: Dallas Brett, Oxford; Theodore Goddard.

Guidance on new procedure relating to appeal applications

R. G. Carter Ltd v Clarke
Before Lord Donaldson of Lynton, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Stocker and Lord Justice Woolf
[Judgment March 8]

The Court of Appeal gave guidance on the new procedure introduced by rule 1, 1989 by the substituted Order 59, rule 14(2) in *The Supreme Court Practice 1988 Fifth Cumulative Supplement* relating to applications made to the Court of Appeal for leave to appeal.

The Court of Appeal granted an application by the defendant, David Clarke, for an *inter partes* order made *ex parte* by Lord Justice Stuart-Smith granting the plaintiffs, R. G. Carter Ltd, leave to appeal from the decision of Mr Justice McCullough who had affirmed the district registrar's decision granting the defendant unconditional leave to defend on the plaintiffs' application for summary judgment under Order 14 of the Rules of the Supreme Court.

The Court of Appeal set aside the *ex parte* order made by Lord Justice Stuart-Smith and refused the plaintiffs leave to appeal.

Order 59, rule 14, as substituted, provides:

"(2) An application to the Court of Appeal for leave to appeal shall (a) include, where necessary, any application to extend time for appealing and (b) be made *ex parte* in writing setting out the reasons why leave should be granted and, if the time for appealing has been extended, the reasons why the application was not made within that time; and the court

may grant or refuse the application or direct that the application be renewed in open court either before or after the hearing."

"(2A) If an application under paragraph (2) is refused otherwise than after a hearing in open court, the applicant shall be entitled, within seven days after he has been given notice of the refusal, to renew his application: such renewal application shall be made *ex parte* in open court."

"(2B) If an application under paragraph (2) is granted otherwise than after a hearing *inter partes*, notice of the order shall be served on the party or parties affected by the appeal and any such party shall be entitled, within seven days after service of the notice, to apply to have the grant of leave reconsidered *inter partes* in open court."

Mr Mark Rasse for the defendant; Mr Derrick Turfitt for the plaintiffs.

THE MASTER OF THE ROLLS said that in the ordinary course of events, a reconsideration of the grant of leave would have been by a single Lord Justice. His Lordship, however, had referred the defendant's application to the full court so that guidance could be given on the working of the new rule.

The new system was aimed at saving time and expense. The new rules provided for reconsideration of applications for leave to appeal on the basis of written material and without an oral hearing.

Apart from the application itself the written material would consist of documents submitted to the court by the applicant in compliance with the terms of the standard letter sent to him or

his legal advisers by the Civil Appeals Office in acknowledgement of receipt of the application.

So far as presently relevant that letter provided:

"In every case a complete bundle of the relevant documents, with each copy numbered, together with an index at the front giving the page references for each document, must be lodged in [the Civil Appeals Office] by [a specified date]. The documents must include:

"(1) Copies of (a) the applicant's summons or notice of *ex parte* application (b) the applicant's sworn affidavit and exhibits (c) a copy of the notice of appeal or draft notice of appeal (if this is not exhibited to that affidavit) (d) the order of the court below appealed from (e) any order of the court below refusing the relief now sought from the Court of Appeal (if different from (d)) (f) the writ or other originating process and the pleadings and (g) such documents as were in evidence in the court below and are relevant to the application and judgment of the court below was taken down in shorthand or recorded on tape, an official transcript of the judgment; or, if there was no shorthand note or tape recording, a typed copy of the note of judgment taken by the official shorthand writer or solicitor. If the applicant appeared in person in the court below the counsel or solicitor who appeared for the respondent in the court below must provide his/her note of the judgment; for the purposes of an application it is not necessary for the note of

judgment to be submitted to the judge."

If an extension of time for appealing was required, there was also to be a written explanation for the delay.

Experience suggested that Lord Justices would be able on such material to divide applications into two large groups, consisting of applications which plainly ought to succeed or fail, and a much smaller group consisting of applications about which there was doubt and in which oral argument and possibly more information would be required before they could be determined.

So far as the larger group were concerned it was unlikely that oral argument would cause the Lord Justice to change his mind. They were composed, by definition, of plain cases. The rule therefore provided that he could at once make an order granting or refusing leave to appeal.

However, safeguards had to be built in to take care of the exceptional case where, for example, the transcript or note of judgment did not fully reveal the point at issue.

It was therefore provided that such orders would, in effect, be orders nisi, the disappointed applicant (where leave was refused) or the disappointed respondent (where leave was granted) having the right to require the decision to be reconsidered *ex parte* (in the case of the applicant) or *inter partes* (in the case of the respondent), in either case at their own risk as to costs.

As the Lord Justice who considered the original application would already have ex-

pressed a firm view, it was preferable, and it was so arranged administratively, that the reconsideration would be by a different Lord Justice.

He would rightly be made aware of the initial decision and the reasons for it, but it would be for him to reach his own decision on the materials before him which would be different to the extent that there would have been brief oral argument.

With regard to the small group of applications where, having considered the written applications, the Lord Justice thought oral argument was necessary or of assistance so that further information was required, it was open to him to adjourn the application into open court and ask for such argument or information either on an *ex parte* or an *inter partes* basis.

Since, by definition, no firm decision would have been reached, the further hearings would be formally before the Lord Justice, who initially considered the written application. His decision would be final and not subject to appeal.

His Lordship thought that the new procedure should result in considerable savings in time and costs to all concerned, at least if the parties gave due weight to the initial decision on the written application and the inherent unlikelihood that it would be changed on reconsideration. If they did not and unnecessarily incurred further costs, they had no one but themselves to blame.

Solicitors: Daynes Hill, Exeter; Perks, Norwich; Milla & Francis, Norwich.

Removing delays in getting masters' appointments

Listing Statement (Queen's Bench non-jury list and judge in chambers' lists)

To help remove delays in getting masters' appointments, caused by a huge increase in their work and a shortage of them, masters' summonses might be transferred to be dealt with by a judge in chambers under Order 32, rule 12 of the Rules of the Supreme Court, Mr Justice Drake said in the Queen's Bench Division on March 9.

HIS LORDSHIP said that there were delays in getting masters' appointments which had arisen because of a huge increase in the volume of the masters' work coupled with a shortage of masters for various reasons.

To help remove such delays a number of masters' summonses might be transferred to be dealt with by a judge in chambers under Order 32, rule 12 of the Rules of the Supreme Court.

Those would be added to

what was presently known as the "Judge in Chambers Appeals List" which would in future be known as the "Judge in Chambers List".

Those matters would then very speedily be warned and thereafter might be put in *The Daily Cause List* either before a named judge or as "floaters".

Where possible, the Clerk of the Lists would accept dates offered by the parties by barristers' clerks or by solicitors as at present. However, it would not always be possible to accept offered dates and the parties had to be ready for a hearing of a transferred masters' summons at very short notice.

Where parties already had a return date for a master's summons more than four weeks ahead and where the hearing was estimated to last two hours or more, they might apply to the judge in chambers list provided all parties consented.

The master would then decide

whether a transfer should be made.

Judge in chambers and non-jury lists

There were now "virtually no delays in listing matters for trial. That applied both to actions set down in the Queen's Bench Division non-jury list and to appeals from the masters to the judge in chambers.

A considerable number of applications to delay hearing dates were based solely on the surprise of the parties that matters were listed so quickly after being set down or entered for appeal to the judge in chambers.

All parties ought by now to be aware of the state of the lists and applications to stand out of the list would not be granted save on very cogent grounds.

If applications were made solely because solicitors were unaware of the state of the lists they might be ordered personally to bear the costs of the application.

● IN NAMIBIA'S DESERT
● SWIMMING AND SNORKELLING

TRAVEL

A city talking through its hat

George Hill
ponders some
Soviet mysteries,
from icons to
head-gear

When the chips are down, history is more important than holidays. It was disappointing — well, more than that, it was infuriating — to arrive in Moscow and find Red Square, the Kremlin and St Basil's Cathedral closed to visitors. Crash barriers snaked across the vast expanse of frosty cobblestones, and friendly but firm police turned us all away.

We had been unlucky enough to arrive just at the time of a meeting of the Congress of People's Deputies. The Soviet Union's path to pluralism and a market economy was being stormily beaten out by the 2,250 elected deputies in the precincts which are Russia's equivalent of the Tower of London, Westminster Abbey, Parliament and Downing Street, all rolled into one. The great fortress was closed, except for the specialist displays in the Armoury, which could be seen by prior appointment, by the few prepared to face a stiff extra charge of £20 a head.

It was impossible to begrudge the deputies their seat of government, and it was thrilling to feel so close to the reworking of the empire's destiny. What was startling was the fact that when we arrived in Moscow the night before, our guides had assured us confidently that our scheduled visit to the Kremlin was still on.

Unlike our own Parliament, the Soviet Union's unwieldy ruling body meets for only about 20 days a year. Last year there were spring and winter sessions. In addition to this week's historic two-day emergency session, a newly-elected Congress is expected to meet in October this year. The Kremlin (which is always closed on Thursdays in any case) was also closed for a period in October last year. Intourist's office in London recently had no more inkling of this year's expected dates of closure than our own guides had about the closure which happened next day.

Closure is a vexation not only to tourists who may be making the only visit of their lives to Moscow, but also to ordinary Muscovites. The side-streets around Red Square were thronged with disgruntled citizens forced to make long and slippery detours, and visibly reflecting that if this was democracy, there was a price to pay for it.

Soap-box orators, all excessively had-tempered, had set up their pitches on the crushed ice, as if to take advantage of the irritation of passers-by. They cast black looks at obvious foreigners like ourselves, and I should guess that their feelings about political change were not warm. But scarcely anyone stopped to listen to them. The flower-stalls nearby were doing much better business. Cut flowers are a staple commodity for the Russians. I wonder whether outsiders have any hope of ever grasping the priorities of a nation which can ensure plentiful supplies of carnations in mid-winter, but cannot guarantee a sufficiency of milk and bread.

The place is still altogether an enigma. There is room for endless



Shopping in the snow at a Moscow street stall: "a subtle vocabulary of status and display has developed... among the drab uniformity of the crowds in the street, the sharp eye may discern that hats speak volumes"

entertainment and profound socio-economic study in its oddities. Our tickets for the ballet had clearly gone through intensive use as paper currency, passing from hand to hand until they were on the point of disintegration. In the crowded foyer of the Bolshoi, Russians looked at them with almost alarmed.

What on earth impels Russians to stand outdoors in the deep frost, meditatively eating ice cream, of all things? And what is the secret language of the fur hat? Perhaps because the rouble is not trusted to hold its value as well as Arctic fox-fur, a subtle vocabulary of status and display has developed in the diversities of headgear, male as well as female. Among the drab uniformity of the crowds in the street, the sharp eye may discern that hats speak volumes. Whatever western campaigners may say, a fur hat can impart a barbaric majesty to the dullest Muscovite, and transmit outrageous hints of sensuality from women wrapped up like bolsters against the penetration of 20 degrees below zero.

Seeing Russia in transformation was far too interesting for us to feel seriously downhearted over mis-

sing the Kremlin. But in practical terms, our story is one that others planning a visit at this time might bear in mind, if only as a warning to expect a certain unpredictability about things. It is an example of a typical intermittent vagueness in the operations of Soviet bureaucracy.

Some things happen with wonderful efficiency (any Londoner must feel like creeping under a flagstone if he compares the functioning of the escalators in the underground systems of Moscow and London). But some things blow out of the in-tray, and are lost to view for years on end.

Take the Tretyakov Gallery. One of the things I had been looking forward to seeing was the icons. To see examples of the great Russian medieval tradition of icon-painting, you have to come to Russia: there is nowhere else. In Moscow itself, there are two unsurpassed collections. One is in the Kremlin churches, the other at the Tretyakov.

For the Kremlin, see above. For the Tretyakov, see the next century, perhaps. Six years ago, its 19th-century buildings were closed for extension and renovation. It is anybody's guess when they may reopen. One might

expect that a gallery housing the equivalent of the nation's Turners would arrange to have its major exhibits put on temporary display elsewhere, when planning a long-term closure. An obvious temporary gallery exists — the huge, ultra-modern and apparently half-empty State Picture Gallery, opposite the skating rink at Gorky Park. Some pictures from the Tretyakov are indeed on show there — post-1917 paintings, including exciting work from the early years of the Revolution, but rather a mixed bag overall. Not a ghost of an icon.

What was baffling to us, and therefore intriguing, was not only the administrative fog which had allowed some of the country's greatest treasures simply to drop out of sight, but also the attitude of

the Moscow guides. We went round them trying to find out what had gone wrong. It seemed a novel concept to them that visitors might have interests and preferences of their own about what they saw. They agreed that it must be disappointing to find the Kremlin and the gallery both closed, but their stoicism in the face of fate was imperturbable. The question why things

were as they were, and the question whether they might be arranged better, did not engage their interest. It was destiny, and there was no more to be said. We mentioned a third major icon collection, in the Andronikov Monastery, where Andrei Rublev worked and is buried. A faraway look came into the beautiful eyes of the lady from Intourist. "Prob-

lem..." she murmured. "But there are the French Impressionists at the Pushkin Museum..." I tell the story not to carp, but to convey a sensation which may be recognizable to most who have visited the USSR — the sense of coming into contact with a vast and unwieldy entity, which is infuriating and at the same time curiously endearing. The things one might expect to go smoothly are the very things that will probably go awry. The things that turn out to be most rewarding are exactly those which come hazily and unexpectedly. Perhaps this is a transitional characteristic of a society finding its footing in a new world. Or perhaps it is a trait which is eternal.

To fill what should have been our Kremlin morning, our party was taken to the Novodevichy Convent, on the edge of Moscow. No grumbles about that. With its white-painted battlements and open-work brick turrets, protecting a tall bell-tower and a toy cathedral with clustered gilded cupolas, the convent is one of the most felicitous groups of buildings in the world. On a sparkling morning after a fall of new snow, with frost powdering the gilded

pinnacles, it is a magic place, a winter Taj Mahal.

Used by the tsars as a sort of holy oubliette for unruly royal dowagers, it has tales in its past which rival anything the Tower of London can offer for luridness. Furthermore, we found a fine show of icons there — not of the best vintage, but excellently displayed — and as an unexpected bonus, an exhibition of the patterned tiles which covered the giant stoves that used to warm traditional Russian homes.

For generations of children, the stove must have been picture-book, primer, wallpaper and comforter, and as much a stimulus to the imagination as any television. It was easy to imagine the story-telling that must have gone on in its warmth on a long winter's night. If we had seen the Kremlin, we would never have had any idea about the tiles.

TRAVEL NOTES

George Hill travelled with Page & Moy (0633 524463) on a one-week tour of Moscow, Leningrad and Kiev, available at a basic price of £499 to £569 (excursions £60 extra from April 1990).

Jill Sherman limbers up for a week in the Savoie, and discovers the worst skiing weather for 20 years

Fun for none but the brave

Doing pelvic thrusts while standing in three feet of snow on the side of a mountain during a raging blizzard is not generally my idea of fun. But after a while I almost enjoyed these bizarre early-morning workouts in full view of the skiing fraternity in Les Arcs.

"Arms up... breathe in and stretch." Chalky White's voice boomed out of the mountainside as visibility closed in further and snow melted down our necks.

The daily 10-minute warm-up, six off, boots on, is a prerequisite of any of the courses run by Chalky White and Martin Rowe under the banner of Optimum Ski Courses.

It is one of a handful of specialist British companies running chalet holidays and providing the instruction themselves which the French authorities, after two bad seasons, are keen to get rid of. But the pair seem confident that good relations with the

locals will stand them in good stead. With plans for a ski mountaineering course next year and white-water rafting in the summer, they have no intention of budging.

Chalky, aged 42, a garrulous former policeman, and Martin, aged 35, who quietly keeps him in order, offer instruction tailored to individuals and backed by superb food, in a comfortable, though somewhat isolated, chalet. A converted farmhouse, it is set in the small hamlet of Le Pré, above Villaroger, in the heart of the Savoie. Barely 100 yards away, a chair-lift joins up with the huge skiing concourse of Les Arcs.

The courses vary in intensity according to ability. At the moment this is a bit of a lottery, but more effort is to be made next year to match skiers. Intermediate skiers start



Funny walks: a warming-up session precedes the day's skiing

gingerly on gentle slopes but are supposed to end up being able to tackle most things in most places. Advanced skiers cover more miles, diving off into powder snow to develop off-piste technique. Eight is

the maximum in any group, and beginners are vetted.

In my case — a fair-weather and cautious skier — my plateau was somewhere around a medium-ish red slope in good conditions. A narrow, icy or steep piste filled me with terror.

Others on the basic course were a bit braver, but none of us had imagined we would ever ski in the conditions which presented themselves that week. The inhabitants of Le Pré swore they had not seen such bad weather for 20 years.

It snowed for seven days and seven nights. The tired brown slopes that greeted us on Saturday morning as we arrived by train from Calais were transformed overnight by a metre of snow, with another two metres over the next three days.

"Whoopie," was the first cry from instructors and skiers

alike as the first chunky snowflakes fell. But by Wednesday, when we were unable to venture out at all because of avalanche risks, the whines for better weather became desperate.

All credit, then, to Chalky and Martin and the staff at Chalet Tarentaise that spirits remained high throughout the week. This was partly due to their own good humour and partly to the excellent food offered by their wives, Linda and Deirdre.

Despite the pea-soup conditions, they did get us out on to the slopes on all but two mornings, topped up in our warmest gear with promises of spiked hot chocolate at 11.30.

The 9am press-ups over, Martin patiently and expertly guided us less-experienced people through the blizzards and the four main elements of skiing — balance, steering, pressure control and edge control.

Skis a little apart, arms wide apart in front and the whole body thrown forward: easier said than done. Ankles flex, feet steer and pelvises are thrust somewhere. Knees are never mentioned. If you can balance, argues Rowe, the rest follows. By the end of the week I could balance on steepish slopes, but oddly tended to collapse in a heap where it was flat.

To be fair, we did not get through the whole course because of the weather, and technique was often cast aside in efforts to negotiate invisible slopes and bumps. We barely

started on "pressure" and never made "edge control". Normally both groups get a day each off-piste, led by an Alpine guide, Christian Boudmand. In our week, both days were cancelled because of avalanche threats, as were the video sessions.

On one morning, forced indoors, we appropriately had a talk on avalanche conditions and off-piste skiing. Aided by a rather alarming video, we were told where not to ski and what to do if caught in an avalanche. "If you spit and it dribbles down your nose you're the wrong way up," said Chalky, helpfully. "Don't bother to shout if you hear someone, because they won't hear you... and don't panic."

The other 15 people on the course — many on their second or third visit — made what could have been a frustrating week enormous fun, mainly because they all mucked in and got on surprisingly well.

I left on the first day of the best week of the season. But that one day of sun, revealing mile upon mile of royal-iced peaks, with Mont Blanc holding court in the distance, was more than enough to bury sneaking thoughts of hanging up my ski-boots.

Arms out wide, body flung sort of forward, I turned with my feet, stayed upright and yelled: "Whoopie!"

TRAVEL NOTES

A six-day Optimum Ski Course (01-860 3811) costs £115; one week half board £199. Six-day lift pass £73.00 and Fogg ski insurance £25.00. Travel by air or train, organized through Skeworld (01-602 4826), ranges from £75 to £129.



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AUGUST

ROTTERDAM POP FESTIVAL: A one-off mega-event to celebrate Rotterdam's 650th anniversary. Thirty days of pop in a specially built city on the Maasvlakte peninsula. World Wide Fund for Nature collaborates in theme of *Bring Nature Back to the Future*. Aug 1-31: Carthago 90, PO Box 63023, 3002 JA Rotterdam (010 31 10 4780400) or Netherlands Board of Tourism, 25-28 Buckingham Gate, London SW1 6LD (01-630 0451).

BREGENZ FESTIVAL: Opera on the floating stage on the Bodensee, backed by the mountains of the Vorarlberg. New production of *La Wally* with Mara Zampieri and revival of David Pountney's *Flying Dutchman* on the lake. July 20-Aug 22: Bregenzer Festspiele, Postfach 311, A-6901 Bregenz (010 43 5574 2281-0). Henebery departs Aug 1-7 at £520 for half-board, two operas and a concert. Prospect offers two five-night trips departing July 26 and Aug 2, from £605 for B&B and two operas. JMB offers a wide range of trips, escorted and unescorted from £266-£449. Brompton goes from July 27-31 at £399 for B&B, two operas, one concert.

SALZBURG FESTIVAL: Opera, oratorio, concerts, recitals and theatre: new production of *Moteno*, revivals of *Un ballo in maschera*, *Don Giovanni*, *Coel* and *Capriccio*. July 26-Aug 31: Salzburger Festspiele, Postfach 140, A-5010 Salzburg (010 43 662 8045). Henebery departs Aug 25-31 at £415 for half-board. JMB offers flexible arrangements from £348-£538.

BAYREUTH WAGNER FESTIVAL: This year Harry Kupfer's *Ring*, also *Parsifal*, *Lohengrin* and *Dutchman*. July 15-Aug 28: Postfach 100262 D-8580 Bayreuth (010 49 921 20221).

PESARO ROSSINI FESTIVAL: This year *Riccardo e Zoraida* and *La scala di seta*. Aug 16-Sept 8: Via Rossini 37, I-61100 Pesaro (010 39 721 687360). Lirica offers seven nights from Aug 7 at £498 for

accommodation and tickets. JMB offers a wide range of trips from £259-£390.

TORRE DEL LAGO: Puccini Festival on the composer's own island. This year *Madama Butterfly* with Watanabe and Toca with Plowright.

July 23-Aug 17: Lirica offers three or seven-night trips from £349-£762 for accommodation and tickets. JMB offers a variety of trips from £236-£589.

BRUGES EARLY MUSIC FESTIVAL: Evening concerts this year present an anthology of the European Latin World, with Monteverdi's 1640 Vespers. Lunchtimes are devoted to the age of the troubadours. July 28-Aug 11: Tourist Office, Burg 11, B-8000 Bruges (010 50 448686).

HELSINKI FESTIVAL: Chamber music, jazz and dance in the Kaivopuisto Park. This year's theme is Finland, with new works by Aho, Lindberg, Nordgren and Tiensuu. Aug 2-Sept 9: Unionkatu 28, 00100 Helsinki (010 358 10 639639).

SANTANDER FESTIVAL: Historic buildings of Calabria provide the setting for concerts, ballet and street theatre. This year *Aida*, *Die Walküre*, *Orfeo ed Euridice*, and the complete organ music of Franck. July 2-Sept 16: Oficina del Festival, Calvo-Sotelo 15-5, E-39002 Santander (010 34 42 314819).

LUCERNE FESTIVAL OF MUSIC: Wide-ranging programme from Lieder to electronic music includes visits from Thomas Hampson, Mariana Lipovsek and Andras Schiff. Aug 15-Sept 8: Hirschmattstrasse 13, CH-6002 Lucerne (010 41 233562).

SEPTEMBER

BRNO MUSIC FESTIVAL: Concerts and opera in the cultural capital of South Moravia centre on the Janáček Theatre, and feature music by Janáček, Martinu and Dvorak. Late Sept-early Oct: Cedok offers a week's tour departing Sept 27 at £299 including tickets and two nights in Prague. Henebery offers a similar deal.



Clowning around: entertainment as performed on the streets of Salzburg during the famous music festival in July and August

WARSAW FESTIVAL OF CONTEMPORARY MUSIC: Composers and performers from a wide variety of countries meet to make music from all periods from the classical to the avant-garde. Sept 14-23: Warsaw Autumn, Rynek Starego 27, PL-00272 Warsaw (010 48 22 310607).

WROCLAW ORATORIO AND CANTATA FESTIVAL: Oratorio, choral concerts and chamber music, with performances from the Dresden Phil. Leipzig Gewandhaus, Peter Schreier and the Kings Singers. Sept 2-15: Wroclaw

Cantans, Rynek-Ratusz 24, PL-50101 (010 48 71 30833).

CASTIGLIONE MUSIC AND ARTS FESTIVAL: Schrittko has offered to write a work for this festival, high in the Tuscan hills, with its concerts, rehearsals and master classes. Arts exhibitions and visits to vineyards included. Sept 1-15: Chamber Music Holidays, 57 Chatsworth Road, Bournemouth (0202 523326).

AARHUS FESTIVAL: Denmark's most comprehensive programme of concerts, sport, theatre, exhibitions, with more than 2,000 events in the Viking

harbour town on the Kattegat coast. Sept 1-8: The Concert Hall, Thomas Jensens Alle, DK-8000 Aarhus C (010 45 86 121233).

INTERNATIONAL BRUCKNER FESTIVAL, LINZ: Bruckner symphonies by the Danube, with a concert performance of *Tristan und Isolde* and an open air Bruckner brass day. Sept 15-Oct 6: Brucknerhaus, Untere Donaulände 7, Postfach 57, A-4010 Linz (010 43 732 275225). Prospect offers a seven-night trip departing Sept 17, combining with Vienna at £775 including tickets.

OCTOBER

BRATISLAVA MUSIC FESTIVAL: The annual autumn festival in Slovakia's medieval capital. The Hall of Mirrors of the Prince's Palace and Bratislava castle host concerts by Bashmet, Mustonen, Popp and Zukerman. Sept 27-Oct 12: Michalska 10, C-81536 Bratislava (010 38 7 334528). Cedok offers a one-week package, departing Oct 4 at £429 including two days in Prague. Henebery has a similar offer.

WEXFORD FESTIVAL: Eire's "Weiss Flord" comes to life with its annual opera festival. This year features Bolleclieu's *La Dame Blanche*, Leoncavallo's *Zaza*, and Nicholas Maw's *The Rising of the Moon*. Oct 26-Nov 12: Theatre Royal, High Street, Wexford, Eire (010 353 53 22240). Prospect departs on Oct 26 and Nov 8, combining with Cork at £450, and on Nov 3 combining with Dublin at £540. Brompton makes two trips, departing Oct 26 and Nov 8 from £390 for three operas and B&B. JMB offers a wide range of possibilities, from £149-£224, with an escorted tour at £459.

STYRIAN AUTUMN FESTIVAL: A lively and enterprising festival of music, theatre and museum art, with a strong emphasis on the avant-garde. This year's theme is *Mobility: The Third Way*: an exploration of creative space in the context of an architectural competition. Oct 4-28: Stairscher Herbst, Sackstrasse 17/1, A-8010 Graz (010 43 316 623007-0).

BARCELONA FESTIVAL DE TARDOR: Music, theatre and dance feature in co-productions focusing on the 20th century. Oct-Nov: Rbla des Caputins 74, E-08002 Barcelona (010 34 3 3170024).

NOVEMBER

BELOUSSIAN MUSICAL FESTIVAL, MINSK: A festival of village fêtes, celebrating harvest and the end of summer. Programme, to be announced, includes performances by the State Folk Orchestra and Dance Ensemble, classical ballet and opera. Nov 20-30: Intourist will arrange special tours.

DECEMBER

GRAFENEGER ADVENT FESTIVAL: Europe's smallest, latest and most beautiful festival, a delightful complement to the round of Christmas markets. Details from Austrian National Tourist Office, 30 Saint George Street, London W1R 0AL (01-629 0461).

TRAVEL CONTACTS

Rosa Barbary Opera and Concert Tours: 6 Kathleen Avenue, North Acton W3 ONG (01-992 7667). Specialists in Spain. Brompton Travel: 204 Walton Street, London SW3 (01-584 6143). Medium-range packages, specializing in opera. Cedok Travel: 17/18 Old Bond Street, London W1 (01-629 6058). A range of festival packages for Czechoslovakia.

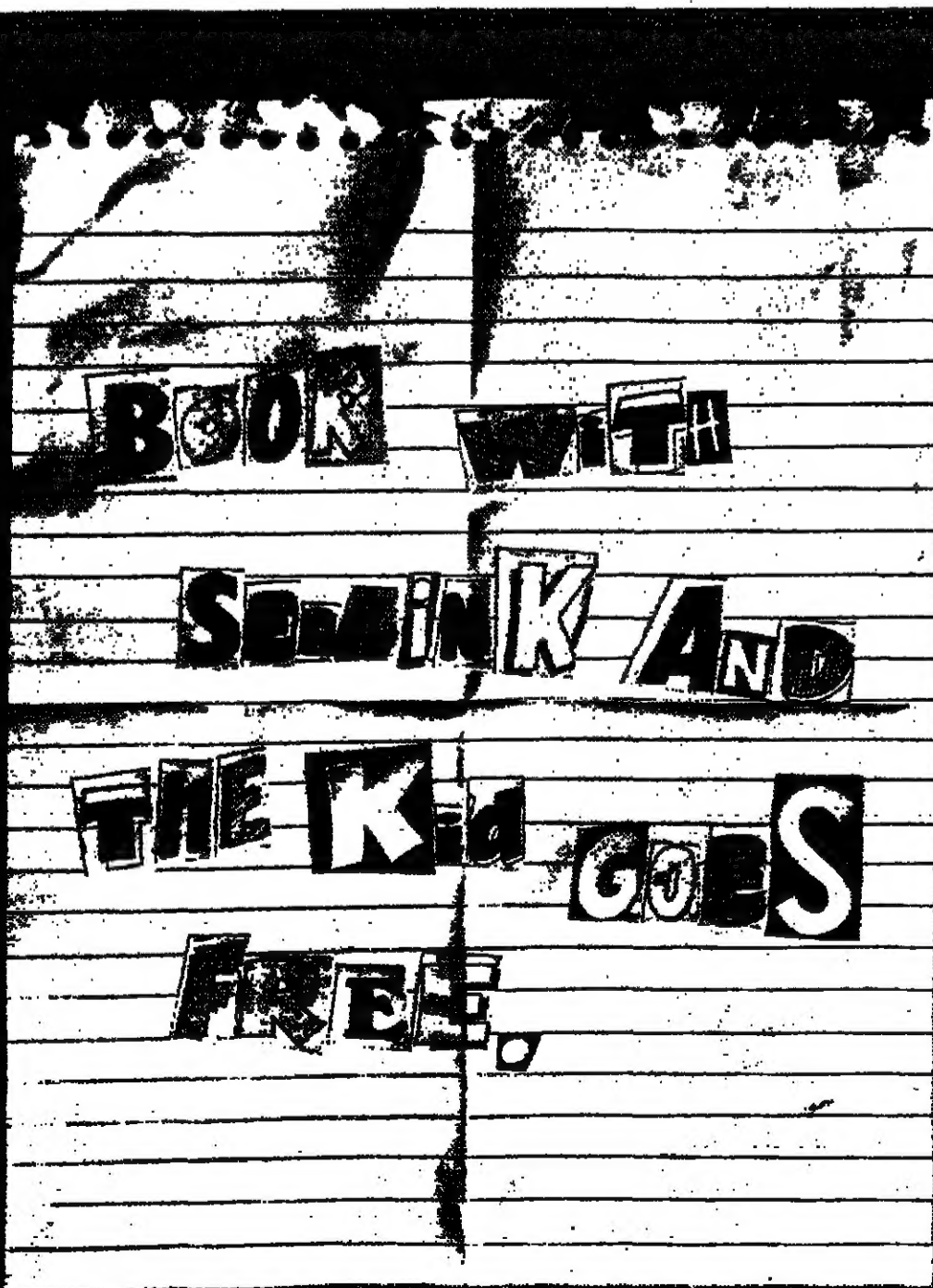
Chamber Music Holidays: 57 Chatsworth Road, Bournemouth, Dorset BH8 8SL (0202 528328). Vacations for players and public in venues such as Normandy, Tuscany and Corfu. Danube Travel Agency: 6 Conduit Street, London W1 (01-493 0263). Tickets and travel for Hungary.

Finnish Tourist Board: 66 Haymarket, London SW1Y 4RF (01-839 4048). Greek National Tourist Office: 4 Conduit Street, London W1 (01-734 5997).

Publishers Greek Festivals '90. G. W. Henebery: Karol Islip, Oxford (0875 6341). Specialist in tailor-made tours at reasonable prices. Office closed May 5-12. Intourist: 219 Marsh Wall, Isle of Dogs, E14 9SJ (01-538 8600). Advises on special festival packages to the USSR.

JMB Travel Consultants Ltd: "Rushwick", Worcester, WR2 5SN (0905 425628). Most flexible specialist operator, offering extensive fit-in arrangements with your own holidays or with business travel, by sea or air. Lirica Travel: 9 Burgess Road, Sutton, Surrey SM1 1RW (0273 304910). Specializes in grand opera tours. Arrange accommodation and tickets but not travel, allowing for greater flexibility. Prospect Music and Opera: 10 Barley Mow Passage, London W4 (01-995 2151). Small, expertly guided tours to a wide range of festivals.

Marlin Randall Travel: 10 Barley Mow Passage, London W4 (01-994 6477). Specialist in art tours, has branched out into music. Specialised Travel: 12-15 Hanger Green, London W5 3EZ (01-998 1761). Advises on festival-oriented travel.



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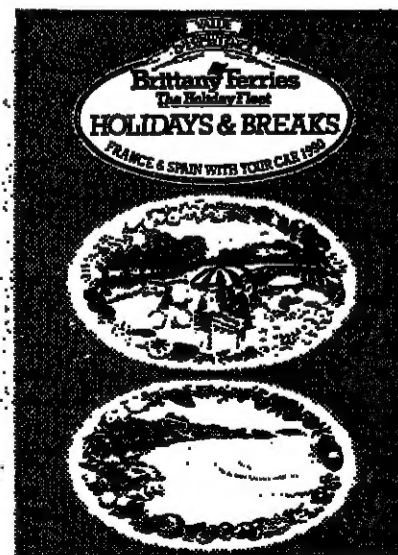
Folkestone to Boulogne, or Newhaven to Dieppe. Visit your local travel agent or motorist organization or phone 0233 647047.

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TRAVEL

A desert surprise

Off the beaten track in Namibia,
Ros Drinkwater discovers a strange
and beautiful land time has passed by

Wake up and come quickly," whispered the Ovambo, shaking me gently. "We think he is near." I unpeeled my sleeping-bag and tiptoed across the sand. You could hear him crashing through the undergrowth on the far side of the water hole. Then he appeared, a huge desert elephant, ghostly pale in the moonlight. For half an hour we watched while he drank and munched *mopani*. Then he turned and vanished into the night.

Namibia, formerly South West Africa and due to become independent on March 21, has been described as a Third World country with a First World infrastructure. Overseas visitors are often surprised by the excellent transport and communications, and the comparatively sophisticated life of the capital, Windhoek. But step off the beaten track and there is desert wilderness, unchanged since the Bushmen first settled it 3,000 years ago.

After the Bushmen came the Nama and the Damara, the farming Ovambos and the aristocratic Hereros. Over the centuries Europeans came and went. Only the Germans, fleeing a rapidly industrializing Europe, felt an affinity with the strange, arid land and in 1884 claimed it for the Kaiser. They were a curious breed, those early pioneers, hardly beyond belief, but with a strong streak of romanticism. They trekked hundreds of miles in search of water, teams of 20 iron-shod oxen pulling their wagons, but where they finally came to rest they built Rhineland-style castles and art nouveau mansions lavishly furnished with the finest goods Europe could supply.

The best colonial architecture can be found in the small town of Luderitz, well worth a detour for the old-fashioned charm of its wind and sand-beaten streets. Luderitz is en route to nowhere,

perched between ocean and desert. The highway that leads there cuts through the forbidden territory of the world's richest diamond fields. Stopping your car on the road is a criminal offence, but it is rumoured that more than a few of Namibia's 27 millionaires suffered vehicle breakdowns in this part of the world.

Close by is the ghost town of Kolmanskop, founded when an African literally stumbled on a diamond. After the discovery of the richer diamond grounds to the south, Kolmanskop was abandoned and its villas, shops and casino are sinking under the sands.

The appeal of Namibia is the sheer scale of its grandeur; the endless mountain vistas of the Fish River Canyon, the wide, flat Etosha Pan in the north, teeming with game, the Namib desert itself, which runs the full length of the coast and gives the country its name — at its centre a sea of apricot-coloured sand dunes towering nearly 1,000ft.

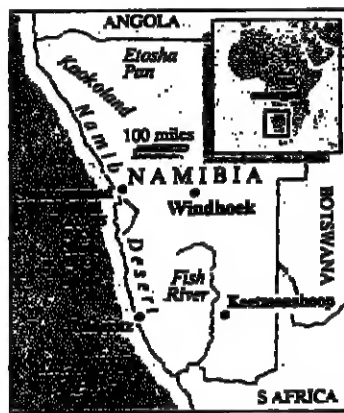
But begin your journey gently at Swakopmund, the country's favourite resort, a bolthole for Namibians fleeing the summer heat of the interior. Swakop is a memorial to colonial town planning with wide boulevards and fine German buildings. Here the sun shines all year round, but at night cool fogs are blown in from the ocean, keeping the temperature at a comfortable 22°C.

Swakop has a cosmopolitan air. It is popular with writers and artists and a favourite location for foreign film companies. The locals are unfazed by the sight of Grace Jones sashaying down Kaiser Street, Dolph Lungren eating shark steak in Kucke's Pub, or Sir Laurens van der Post sipping tea at the Café Anton. There is excellent bathing and surfing, and miles of wide, sandy beaches — but take care near the harbour where the beach makes a sudden dive to the depths of the ocean and the

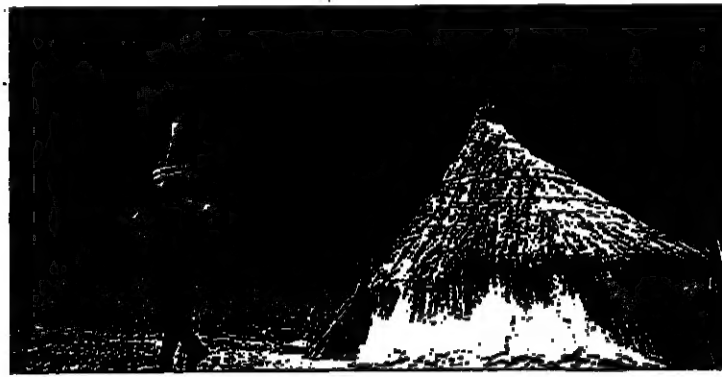
force of the waves can knock you flat on your back.

There are several first-class hotels, but the Pension Schweitzerhaus, with the attached Café Anton, has a special charm. Its terrace is the hub of Swakop café society. It overlooks the town planners' *pièce de résistance*, a dual-carriageway planted with palms leading from the centre of town down to the ocean. Some years ago, one end was sealed off. "It was beginning to attract traffic," was the cryptic explanation.

The ethnological treasures at Swakop's museum had whetted my appetite for a trip to the interior. The sea fog hung over Kaiser Street as we set off for Kaokoland in search of the nomadic Ovahimba tribe, who live much in the manner of their Stone Age ancestors. Kaokoland is not for the feeble. Travel is by four-wheel-drive vehicle only, and one vehicle travelling alone is not recommended in case of a break-



down. Full supplies of petrol, water and food must be carried. My guide, Paul van der Bilt, is an expert in desert survival and a mine of unforgettable facts... How to render a scorpion edible: remove the sting, boil it up and pretend it's a prawn. What to do should a black mamba crawl over you in the night: ignore it, the poor



Simple living: the Ovahimbis live much like their Stone Age ancestors

thing's just looking for warmth and if you can't handle that, carry a sealed tent. The correct mode of female dress for meeting the 'Himba: preferably an ankle-length skirt, never trousers, the 'Himba are gentle, but they have to draw the line somewhere. At noon, the temperature soared to 40°C, at night we froze in

our sleeping-bags. We made camp in dried-up riverbeds mottled with leopard spots, and drifted off to sleep counting the shooting stars, alert to the cries of hyena, jackal, and baboon; they were probably quite a way off but we slept with stout sticks by our sides in the sand, just in case. In the desert, you are always prepared.

TRAVEL NOTES

● Lufthansa (28 Piccadilly, London W1, 01-408 0322) and South African Airways (251 Regent Street, W1, 01-734 9841) fly twice weekly to Namibia via Frankfurt, approximate price £251 to £1,010, depending on the season. Namib Air is planning direct flights from London at a date to be announced.

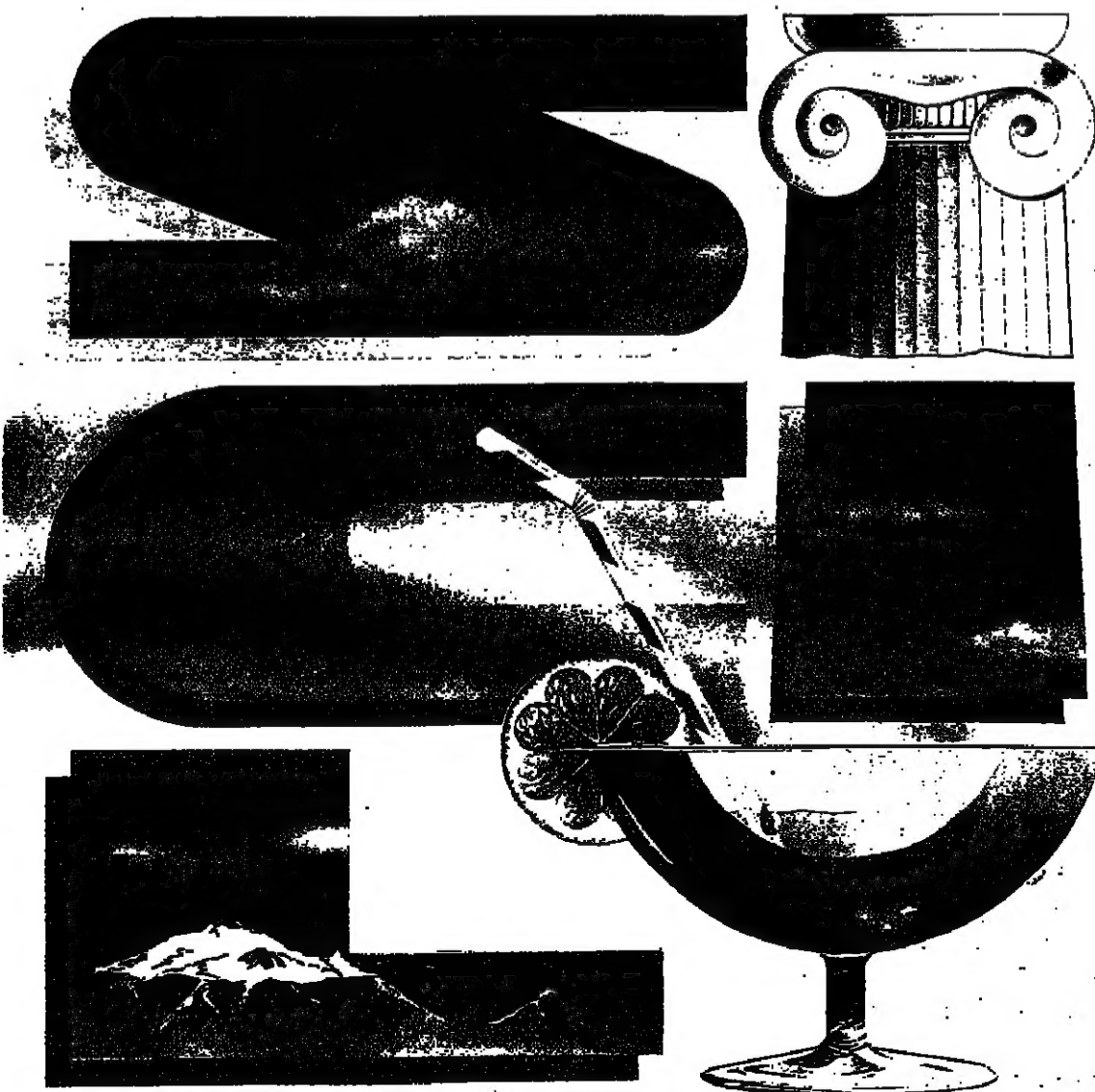
● Comfortable hotel room with bath costs between £16 per night per person (Pension Schweitzerhaus, Swakopmund) to £46 per person (Kalahari Sands Hotel, Windhoek). It is advisable to book in good time.

● DAS, PO Box 339, Swakopmund, offers a range of desert safaris. For further information on hotels and guest farms, contact Namibia Trade and Tourism, Private Bag 13297, Windhoek 9000.

● The best time to visit Namibia is February-May and September-November. Tipping: 10 per cent is customary.

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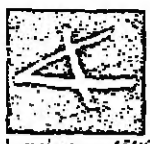
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Never take letters for granted.

The Yoruba tribe of Nigeria once used cowrie shells to communicate with each other. Six sent to your beloved meant, "I fancy you." Eight sent back in reply meant, "I'll leave the door open."

It was of course vital to be able to count accurately.

Other early forms of communication took even more cryptic form.

Peruvian Quipus - knotted cords of different colours - were used by Inca Civil Servants as a sort of filing system for public records.

These are still used in Lambeth today.

The Quipu may have been alright for beating llamas, but as a way of communicating, it couldn't beat writing: "the greatest invention of man" according to Abraham Lincoln.

In the earliest stages of writing, letters were drawn like pictures (pictographs).

The first pictographic 'writing' was Sumerian from around 4000 BC.

The most famous was Egyptian hieroglyphic - sacred writing engraved in stone. This meant absolutely nothing to anyone until a Frenchman called Champollion succeeded in working out and writing the name of Cleopatra from hieroglyphs on the Rosetta Stone in 1822. Realising what he'd done, he cried out "Je tiens l'affaire!" ("I've cracked it!"), and promptly collapsed in a heap.



We can also congratulate the Egyptians for developing the pen and papyrus. It may not seem much to you, but it was a damn sight easier to tuck under your arm than a chisel and a block of granite.

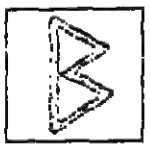
To keep the number of signs down to a minimum, the Egyptians adopted the rebus principle - a pictorial way of substituting pictures for words or syllables. Need say more?

They the Chinese didn't grasp this principle. Even now their written language has 50,000 graphic characters. (Incidentally, in early Chinese the signs for 'woman' plus 'broom' meant 'wife'. 'Woman' plus 'woman' meant 'quarrel' - the earliest example of sexism in literature.)

And so, as scholars' jaws drop even lower, let us skip to the alphabetic system of writing 'invented' some 5,600 years ago.

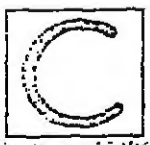
The word alphabet is simply the combined Greek names for the first two letters, alpha and beta.

The first letter of the Hebrew ('alef'), Arabic ('alif'), Greek (alpha) and Latin (A) alphabets all came from this: a picture of an ox head which & over the years & changed into something & we all recognise, don't we A?



The first alphabet is believed to have come from the Semites. But it was the Phoenicians who aimed to devise a true alphabet which relied on one symbol to represent one sound.

Early alphabetic scripts could be read from top to bottom, left to right, right to left and, at one period in Greek history, were written in boustrophedon - as the ox ploughs - from right to left and back again from left to right. Confused? You will be...



Hallelujah! The Greeks stop the Phoenician alphabet spinning round and get everybody to agree to read from left to right. Except those poor Chinese of course...



And on to the alphabet we inherited from the Romans. The most perfect expression of the letters is chiselled

into the base of the Trajan Column in Rome. By common consent, these *Capitalis Romana* are known as the most beautiful of all Roman letters and were the prototype for western letter forms.

About 50 AD, the last letter in the alphabet was X. Then after conquering Greece and learning a few Greek jokes that needed a bit of explaining, the Latins added Y and Z. J and U were added in the early Middle Ages and W arrived in the 11th century - just in time for Beowulf.

Meanwhile, back in the court of Emperor Wu Di, a Chinese eunuch called Cai Lun with no balls but one hell of an imagination, invented paper. Made from tree bark, fish nets and old rags, it took over 1,000 years to reach Europe.



Black letter, 13th century

Whizzing past the order for one Domesday Book placed in 1086 (famous for its paw spelling), here's a cultural handrail to give you some perspective on the 12th century. In the whole of Europe there were only four universities: Paris, Oxford, Bologna and Salerno.

As books were becoming more of a commercial enterprise, the need to cram more and more onto a page produced the Gothic or Black Letter. De rigueur for religious manuscripts, it still plagues wedding invites and made Chaucer a swine to read even then.

A POTTED HISTORY OF PRINTING FROM THE FIRST LETTER TO THE LAST WORD.



Rustic Capital, 4th-5th century

Unless you're really into calligraphy (another Greek word of course), we can skip Rustic Capitals and a few hundred years. During this time generations of poor, benighted scribes tried fruitlessly to improve on Roman lettering and developed something they called 'book hand'. This is probably related to 'scribe's bottom' or 'copyist's squint'.

The Roman Empire went bust round about now and the barbarians turned it into a bingo hall.



Uncial letter, 7th century

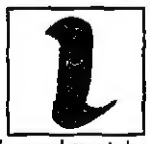
As the dust settled on the Roman Empire, *Litterae Unciales* (inch-high letters), were the chubby little heroes of the day. Beloved by scribes who skidded round corners and joined strokes to save time, they were now being written on parchment, "that stouffe that we wrythe vpon: and is made of beestis skynnes." ALL LETTERS WERE STILL IN CAPITALS.



Illuminated letter from The Book of Kells, 8th-9th century. But they got a lot smaller in the 6th century when the lowercase letter started popping up. As did the Vikings, the 8th century's very own lager louts who, despite destroying every monastery they could find, missed those responsible for the two masterpieces of Celtic illuminated writing - The Book of Kells and the Lindisfarne Gospels.

The latter was once stolen and found later, buried and minus its gold cover. Even in the Middle Ages, people nicked books. To try and stop this, scribes would often add a curse in the colophon as in this 9th century manuscript:

"Whoe'er this book to make his own doth plot, The fires of hell and brimstone be his lot." And it wasn't until about 600 AD that words began to be separated. Uptillthen nobodysawanyreason to put space between them.



Carolingian letter, 8th century

Fed up with trying to decipher the cryptic handwriting of scribes from all over his empire, Charlemagne headhunted the top man from the Scriptorium at York and gave him the job of creating a single standard of handwriting - the first bit of corporate design ever.

Charged almost literally with rewriting history, Alcuin of York developed Carolingian letters - a clearly legible book hand, and the direct ancestor of our lowercase alphabet and most basic type styles of today.



Gothic letter, 15th century

The Renaissance interest in geometry and ideal form pushed many to try

One variation on Black Letter was known as Bastarda for pretty obvious reasons.

Dürer also wrote "Of the Just Shaping of Letters" in 1525, but it's not as good a story.



Garamond, Roman, 1532

The 16th century saw French typographers leading the world. The most sought after of the time, responsible for establishing the first type foundry, was Claude Garamond who died penniless in 1561, a little ahead of enduring fame. C'est la vie.



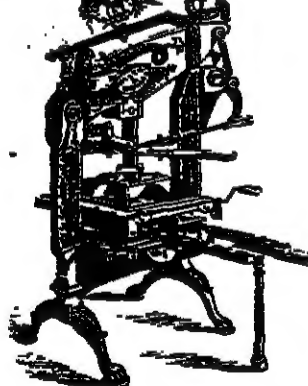
Caslon, Old Face, 1726

By the 18th century the spread of literacy amongst a growing middle class made printing big business. William Caslon's Old Face type, cut in 1722, became known as "the finest vehicle for the printed conveyance of English speech."



Baskerville, Roman, 1757

Nothing was good enough for Baskerville. He made his own ink, developed his own wove paper and made the first real improvements to the printing press since Gutenberg. His typeset, dismissed as 'painful' at the time, is now one of the most popular and linked the 'Old styles' with the 'Moderns'.



After his death, Baskerville's type and punches ended up in Paris where they were used during the French Revolution. His body, for various bizarre reasons, spent the best part of 80 years kicking around a warehouse and plumber's shop before being finally put to rest.



Bodoni, 1788

The so-called "Father of 'modern' type," Bodoni of Parma managed to attract Napoleon's attention with the imperial look of his work.



Wood E. Shawwoods, Ornamented No 1, 1838

Display faces were just what the early advertisers wanted. The wackier the better. One of the very earliest poster types had the most appealing name: Fat Face.



From 'The Mother's Picture Alphabet' of 1862

begins Um, that at tea-time Jane brings. When we all love to hear how it hisses and sings.



Typewriter, 1850s

"The Adventures of Tom Sawyer" was the first novel to be written on a typewriter in 1875. Mark Twain dismissed his Remington as a "new fangled thing."



Morris, 1890s

Better known to Yuppies for his wallpapers and textiles, the poet William Morris started the Kelmscott Press in 1891 to revive the beauty of typography that book production lost, in his opinion, somewhere in the 15th century.



Johnson's Railway Type, 1918

The first sans serif (letters without pointy bits), of the 20th century was Johnson's Railway Type designed for the London Underground in 1918.



Times New Roman, 1932

Without doubt the most influential authority on printing and typography this century, Stanley Morison is most publicly remembered for re-designing The Times. The October 3rd issue of 1932 was the first to feature his Times New Roman.



Michel Medium, 1960s

A zip through the last 50 years... Machines took over from men to pursue the goal of ever clearer letters, set ever more quickly.

Up to the turn of the century however, book print was put together by 'Pica Thumpers' - so called after a size of type.

Paid by the 'ennage' (or length of setting) they had a sneaky habit of slipping extra space into the line. It's easy to spot their work. Then along came the computer...



is for Epon's TLQ 4800. The last word in computer printing technology and the first 48 pin dot matrix in the world.

And not satisfied with an invention that makes printing history, Epon have invented a whole new word to describe how they did it - Supermechanics.

(Those poor old Chinese, that's another 52 brush strokes they'll have to learn.)

What this gives you is a machine with print quality like a laser (Total Letter Quality no less).

Unlike a laser printer however, the Epon gives you amazing paper handling. You wouldn't believe what it can do with a piece of A3 paper.

If you want to find out what else this revolutionary new printer can do for you, tie a knot in your Quipu and remember to write to: Epon (UK) Ltd, FREEPOST, TK984, Brentford, Middlesex TW8 8BR. Or call up Prestel 280# or phone (0800) 289622 free of charge.

E is also the beginning of the end. ET SIC FINIS



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